SATURDAY
December 20, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
22 Pages ₹ 6.00

# THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 300

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

PARLIAMENT PROCEEDINGS

**Winter Session ends on tumultuous note**

NEWS » PAGE 15

'ORGANISED CRIME'

**Child trafficking a disturbing reality: SC**

NEWS » PAGE 16

SC ON CSR ACTIVITIES

**'Corporates have duty to protect ecosystem'**

NEWS » PAGE 16

CYCLONE TRAIL

***The long path from wreckage to recovery***

*Restoration poses major challenge to Sri Lanka*

GROUND ZERO » PAGE 13

ANOTHER SERIES WIN

**Hardik, Tilak and Varun shine for India**

SPORT » PAGE 19

# 97 lakh electors deleted in T.N., 74 lakh in Gujarat

Among those deleted in T.N., 66.4 lakh had shifted or were absent; over a third of Chennai's voters were removed from the rolls; in Gujarat, 40 lakh had migrated permanently and 9.7 lakh absent

**N. Sai Charan**
**Abhinay Deshpande**
CHENNAI/AHMEDABAD

Over 15% of Tamil Nadu electors and 14.5% of those from Gujarat have been deleted from the voter lists as part of the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. In Chennai alone, more than 35% of voters' names have been deleted.

The Election Commission of India (EC) on Friday published the integrated draft electoral rolls of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat after the SIR enumeration period. More than 97.3 lakh electors have been removed from Tamil Nadu's draft rolls, among the highest number of deletions in the country. More than 73.7 lakh have been removed from Gujarat's rolls.

On October 27, when the EC froze the electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu, the State had 6.41 crore electors. According to the draft electoral rolls, the total number of electors in the State now stands at 5.43 crore.

Of the electors removed in Tamil Nadu, 26.9 lakh were deceased, 66.4 lakh had shifted or were absent, and 3.98 lakh were duplicate entries.

T.N. Chief Electoral Officer Archana Patnaik told journalists that the draft electoral roll was released in every district in the presence of recognised political parties. The period for filing claims and objections opened on December 19 and would continue till January 18, 2026, she said.

In Chennai alone, 14.2 lakh electors have been deleted. This accounts for almost 35.6% of the electors enumerated before SIR, making it the district with the highest share of deletions in the State. While the district had 40 lakh electors before SIR, only 25.7 lakh remain in the draft roll.

**'Unprecedented move'**

"This is precisely the mass disenfranchisement that some of us have been warning against. While Tamil Nadu's electoral rolls were due for pruning, the scale of deletions is unprecedented and shocking," said Yogendra Yadav, political analyst and founder of the Swaraj Abhiyan. He said he had expected a deletion of about 41 lakh names as the State's projected adult population stood at 6 crore, while its voter list had around 6.41 crore names.

Congress leader and former Union Minister P. Chidambaram drew attention to the fact that 66.4 lakh people were listed as shifted or absent, and called on all political parties to pay attention to this number.

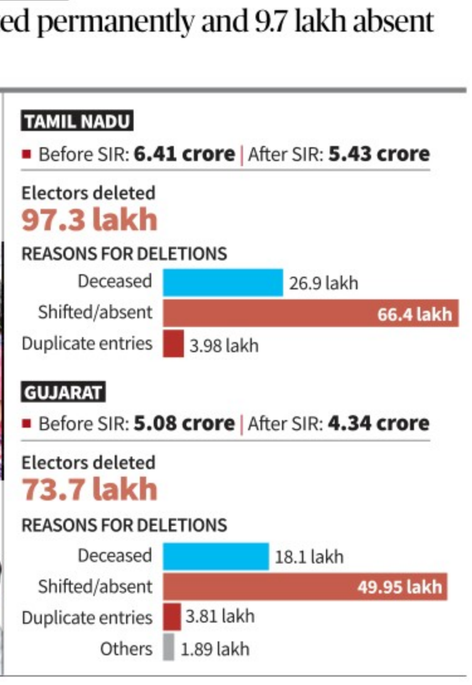
CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

## Numbers in draft rolls

Election Commission published draft electoral rolls for T.N. and Gujarat on Friday after the enumeration phase of the SIR

"The DMK and its alliance partners will ensure that no genuine elector is left out of the rolls"

**R.S. BHARATHI**
DMK organising secretary




# Leadership tussle escalates as Siddaramaiah and Dy. CM air divergent views on 'pact'

**B.S. Satish Kumar**
BELAGAVI

The leadership tussle in the Congress government escalated on Friday, the last day of the legislature session, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asserting that he would complete the full term and there was no agreement to restrict him to two-and-half years.

Taking a divergent view, Deputy Chief Minister and aspirant for the top post, D.K. Shivakumar, speaking in Gokarna later in the day, stated that there was indeed a pact which both would abide by.

Speaking in the Legislative Assembly, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah sent a stern message by declaring he would complete the full term and the Congress high command was, in his view, in his favour. "I am the Chief Minister now and I will continue as the Chief Minister in future also," Mr. Siddaramaiah said while replying to the debate on the development of North Karnataka.

Mr. Siddaramaiah denied speculation that there was a power-sharing understanding as per which he had to step down after two-and-a-half years. "The party high command has never said that my term is only two-and-a-half years. I have been chosen for five years and I will be there for five years," he said, while replying to repeated insinuations by the Opposition members on whether he was a Chief Minister with "just two-and-a-half-year term."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking in the Legislative Assembly in Belagavi on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## NEARBY

**Murder case: Partial relief for MLA Basavaraj**

BENGALURU
Karnataka High Court quashed the invocation of provisions of the KCOCA, 2000, against BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj in the murder case of a realtor. However, it rejected his plea for advance bail. » PAGE 5

**5.77L school, PU students have hypertension**

BENGALURU
Around 12.5% of government and aided school and Pre-University College students in Karnataka were found to have hypertension in a health check-up conducted for the academic year 2025-26.

» PAGE 8

PROPERTYPLUS » PAGE 9

# Violence rocks Bangladesh after key leader's death

**Rabiul Alam**
DHAKA

Violent protests swept Bangladesh on Thursday night and Friday following the death of Sharif Osman Hadi, a key figure of last year's uprising against the Sheikh Hasina government and a leader of the Inquilab Mancha. Hadi, 32, was shot at on December 12 while he was campaigning for the upcoming February elections and died of injuries on Thursday night at a hospital in Singapore.

**Offices stormed**

Protesters stormed the offices of the country's two leading newspapers – *Prothom Alo* and *The Daily Star* – and set fire to the buildings, trapping journalists and other staff inside.

Accusing both newspapers of being 'agents of India', the crowd went on a rampage.

From the capital's Shahbagh intersection to university campuses and major cities, students, political activists, and members of the public organised marches, blockades and demonstrations, and demanded justice for Hadi.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 14

# From the 'Sincaraz' takeover to the Sabalenka makeover

The tennis landscape continued to change as the sport grappled with challenges in 2025. Which of the emergent storylines will hold sway next year? And where does India fit in all of this?

**N. Sudarshan**

The 2025 tennis season was dominated by Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner. But for the initial months, when the fallout from Sinner's twin doping violations in 2024 grabbed headlines, the rest of the time was spent marvelling at the duo's extra-terrestrial quality of play. Here is a look at how 'Sincaraz' shaped the men's game, why Aryna Sabalenka spent the whole year at No. 1 and what Italian tennis accomplished, among other salient developments this season:

## Swift-rising cream and Djokovic's last dance

As the era of the Big Three – Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic – wound to a close, fans were left wondering what men's tennis would look like. Many felt that it would be up and down, about two years of intense jostling before the next creamy layer rose to the top.

But Alcaraz and Sinner have ensured one of the most seamless transitions ever witnessed. The two have swept the last eight Majors, and, remarkably, met in each of the last three Slam finals.

The season has also added new dimensions to their rivalry. Alcaraz, considered the better player on the natural surfaces, nearly lost his French Open crown to Sinner and was dethroned at Wimbledon by the Italian. But at the US Open, the Spaniard beat Sinner handsomely despite hard-courts being considered the latter's preferred turf.

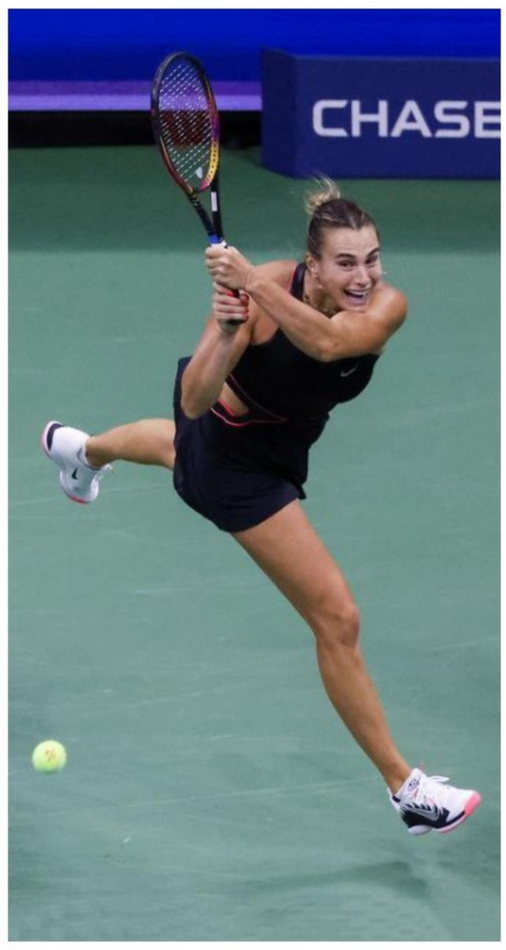
**Alcaraz and Sinner are adding new dimensions to their rivalry, even as they preside over one of the smoothest transitions of power ever witnessed**

Sinner did defeat Alcaraz to win the year-ending ATP Finals, but they have now unlocked areas in the match-up that hitherto seemed non-existent. Such has their excellence been that the legendary Djokovic, 38, has had to play a rather unfamiliar third-act. The Serb reached the semi-finals at all four Majors, won career titles No. 100 and 101, and ended the year at No. 4. But three of his four defeats at the Slams in 2025 came against Alcaraz or Sinner. Does the 24-time Major winner have the energy at this grand old tennis age for one last dance?

## Sabalenka: all year, all surfaces

For the second straight year, Sabalenka was named the WTA Player of the Year.

In 2023 and 24, she was the standout athlete, winning three Slams, reaching a final and two semifinals from seven appearances. But this season, though she won just one Major, she elevated her play further. Her maiden Roland-Garros final proved that she was more than just a hard-court star. By making a third straight semifinal at the All England Club in three visits, Sabalenka let the world know that she was adept on grass too.



GETTY IMAGES

To a degree, the capricious finals she lost to Madison Keys (Australian Open) and Coco Gauff (French Open) called into question her mental make-up. But a brittle mind does not win a single-season-record 22 tie-breaks (88% success rate). In 2026, the Belarusian may even see the rekindling of her generational rivalry with Iga Swiatek, who went out of her comfort zone to clinch her first Wimbledon title.

## The never-ending season

That the tennis off-season is shrinking is no longer in doubt. Players have repeatedly said that the calendar was bursting at the seams.

But the problem is a function of the dysfunctional state of tennis governance. There are seven governing bodies – the International Tennis Federation (ITF), ATP, WTA and the four Majors – and each has a tournament to sell.

Apart from the regular Tour, there is the United Cup, the Laver Cup, and legacy tournaments in the Davis Cup and the Billie Jean King Cup. Three of the four Slams now stretch across three weekends and almost all Masters 1000 tournaments have ballooned to 10-day affairs from their snappy week-long earlier versions. It doesn't help that eight of the nine Masters are mandatory, and from 2028, Saudi Arabia will host a tenth.

Players, too, are far from blameless, for they are happy to earn the big bucks at exhibitions like the Six Kings Slam. In 2025, the four-day event in Riyadh guaranteed the winner $6 million, more than the prize money at any Grand Slam. Something's got to give. When and where?

## Forza Italia!

In recent times, no country has had it better than Italy. It has two men in the top-10 in Sinner and Lorenzo Musetti, and eight in the top-100. Among women, Jasmine Paolini has consistently stayed in the top-10. Such is the strength and depth that 2025 saw Italy winning a third straight Davis Cup and second consecutive Billie Jean King Cup.

Italy has also been hosting the ATP Finals since 2021, and was the home of the Next Gen ATP Finals from 2017 to 2022. This pedigree has been acquired meticulously. For example, in 2019, Italy hosted as many as 18 Challengers, and supplemented by first-rate coaching development programmes, the home boys won eight of those. A young Sinner secured two, and in a matter of 12 months, the lanky teen had risen from outside the top-750 to No. 78. The seeds for present-day success were perhaps sown back then.

## Rise of the super-athlete

Tennis players have been quite successful at becoming endurance athletes. Increasingly it appears that they are also turning into power athletes.

The best example from the recent past is the 5-hour 29-minute slugfest between Alcaraz and Sinner in the French Open final. The quality of shot-making, the penetrative strokes from both wings and the power and strength to execute in the sixth hour of tennis made it breathtaking.

"You watch how hard Sinner hits the ball... it's difficult to have that intensity every single day," Sebastian Korda told *The Hindu* a few months ago. "Everything's getting so much faster and everyone's getting so agile and getting into some crazy positions. On grass, you kind of used to take those little small steps. But now, everyone is playing like it's clay! It is definitely transforming in a way tennis hasn't really seen."

There was belief that the likes of Alexander Zverev and Daniil Medvedev, both blessed with great height and giant wingspans, could match Alcaraz and Sinner. But they seem to be disappearing like vehicles in a rear-view mirror. Can they hold a candle to 'Sincaraz' in 2026?

## The India story

There are as many as five Indian men in the doubles top-100. But the tennis worth of a nation is solely dependent on the health of the singles game, and in this, India, unfortunately, is terminally ill. There is nobody in the top-250, men or women.

There was the creditable 3-1 away win over Switzerland in a Davis Cup World Group I tie, but apart from Jerome Kym – who was ranked 155 then and is now 188 – the land of Federer and Stan Wawrinka did not pose a significant challenge.

If anything, the gulf was seen in the Billie Jean King Cup playoffs in Bengaluru where the Indian women lost to Slovenia (1-2) and the Netherlands (0-3). With doubles star Rohan Bopanna having retired, even an outside shot at Slam success will depend on World No. 21 Yuki Bhambri.

# STACKING UP

**ATP Men's Top 15**

| # | Player | Age | Points | Events |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Carlos Alcaraz | 22 | 12,050 | 19 |
| 2 | Jannik Sinner | 24 | 11,500 | 18 |
| 3 | Alexander Zverev | 28 | 5,160 | 24 |
| 4 | Novak Djokovic | 38 | 4,830 | 20 |
| 5 | Felix Auger-Aliassime | 25 | 4,245 | 28 |
| 6 | Taylor Fritz | 28 | 4,135 | 23 |
| 7 | Alex de Minaur | 26 | 4,135 | 23 |
| 8 | Lorenzo Musetti | 23 | 4,040 | 23 |
| 9 | Ben Shelton | 23 | 3,970 | 23 |
| 10 | Jack Draper | 23 | 2,990 | 17 |
| 11 | Alexander Bublik | 28 | 2,870 | 29 |
| 12 | Casper Ruud | 26 | 2,835 | 21 |
| 13 | Daniil Medvedev | 29 | 2,760 | 24 |
| 14 | A. Davidovich Fokina | 26 | 2,635 | 26 |
| 15 | Holger Rune | 22 | 2,590 | 21 |

**Top Indians ▸**

Sumit Nagal
Rank 277 ▲ No change

Aryan Shah
Rank 405 ▲ 9 spots

**WTA Women's Top 15**

| # | Player | Age | Points | Events |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Aryna Sabalenka | 27 | 10,870 | 21 |
| 2 | Iga Swiatek | 24 | 8,395 | 21 |
| 3 | Coco Gauff | 21 | 6,763 | 21 |
| 4 | Amanda Anisimova | 24 | 6,287 | 23 |
| 5 | Elena Rybakina | 26 | 5,850 | 23 |
| 6 | Jessica Pegula | 31 | 5,583 | 23 |
| 7 | Madison Keys | 30 | 4,335 | 21 |
| 8 | Jasmine Paolini | 29 | 4,325 | 19 |
| 9 | Mirra Andreeva | 18 | 4,319 | 19 |
| 10 | Ekaterina Alexandrova | 31 | 3,375 | 26 |
| 11 | Belinda Bencic | 28 | 3,119 | 21 |
| 12 | Clara Tauson | 22 | 2,770 | 23 |
| 13 | Linda Noskova | 21 | 2,641 | 25 |
| 14 | Elina Svitolina | 31 | 2,606 | 16 |
| 15 | Emma Navarro | 24 | 2,515 | 25 |

**Top Indians ▸**

Sahaja Yamalapalli
Rank 304 ▲ 1 spot

Shrivalli Bhamidipaty
Rank 398 ▼ 1 spot

**English Premier League Standings**

| # | Team | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Arsenal | 16 | 11 | 3 | 2 | 30 | 10 | 20 | 36 |
| 2 | Man. City | 16 | 11 | 1 | 4 | 38 | 16 | 22 | 34 |
| 3 | Aston Villa | 16 | 10 | 3 | 3 | 25 | 17 | 8 | 33 |
| 4 | Chelsea | 16 | 8 | 4 | 4 | 27 | 15 | 12 | 28 |
| 5 | Crystal Palace | 16 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 20 | 15 | 5 | 26 |
| 6 | Man. United | 16 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 30 | 26 | 4 | 26 |
| 7 | Liverpool | 16 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 26 | 24 | 2 | 26 |
| 8 | Sunderland | 16 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 19 | 17 | 2 | 26 |
| 9 | Everton | 16 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 18 | 19 | -1 | 24 |
| 10 | Brighton | 16 | 6 | 5 | 5 | 25 | 23 | 2 | 23 |
| 11 | Tottenham | 16 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 25 | 21 | 4 | 22 |
| 12 | Newcastle | 16 | 6 | 4 | 6 | 21 | 20 | 1 | 22 |
| 13 | Bournemouth | 16 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 25 | 28 | -3 | 21 |
| 14 | Fulham | 16 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 23 | 26 | -3 | 20 |
| 15 | Brentford | 16 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 22 | 25 | -3 | 20 |
| 16 | N. Forest | 16 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 17 | 25 | -8 | 18 |
| 17 | Leeds United | 16 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 20 | 30 | -10 | 16 |
| 18 | West Ham | 16 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 19 | 32 | -13 | 13 |
| 19 | Burnley | 16 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 18 | 33 | -15 | 10 |
| 20 | Wolves | 16 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 9 | 35 | -26 | 2 |

**Italian Serie A Standings**

| # | Team | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Inter Milan | 15 | 11 | 0 | 4 | 34 | 14 | 20 | 33 |
| 2 | AC Milan | 15 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 24 | 13 | 11 | 32 |
| 3 | Napoli | 15 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 22 | 13 | 9 | 31 |
| 4 | Roma | 15 | 10 | 0 | 5 | 16 | 8 | 8 | 30 |
| 5 | Juventus | 15 | 7 | 5 | 3 | 19 | 14 | 5 | 26 |
| 6 | Bologna | 15 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 23 | 13 | 10 | 25 |
| 7 | Como | 15 | 6 | 6 | 3 | 19 | 12 | 7 | 24 |
| 8 | Lazio | 15 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 17 | 11 | 6 | 22 |
| 9 | Sassuolo | 15 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 21 | 19 | 2 | 21 |
| 10 | Udinese | 15 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 16 | 22 | -6 | 21 |
| 11 | Cremonese | 15 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 18 | 18 | 0 | 20 |
| 12 | Atalanta | 15 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 19 | 18 | 1 | 19 |
| 13 | Torino | 15 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 26 | -11 | 17 |
| 14 | Lecce | 15 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 11 | 19 | -8 | 16 |
| 15 | Cagliari | 15 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 15 | 21 | -6 | 14 |
| 16 | Genoa | 15 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 16 | 23 | -7 | 14 |
| 17 | Parma | 15 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 18 | -8 | 14 |
| 18 | Verona | 15 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 13 | 22 | -9 | 12 |
| 19 | Pisa | 15 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 10 | 20 | -10 | 10 |
| 20 | Fiorentina | 15 | 0 | 6 | 9 | 12 | 26 | -14 | 6 |

**Spanish LaLiga Standings**

| # | Team | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Barcelona | 17 | 14 | 1 | 2 | 49 | 20 | 29 | 43 |
| 2 | Real Madrid | 17 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 34 | 16 | 18 | 39 |
| 3 | Villarreal | 15 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 31 | 13 | 18 | 35 |
| 4 | Atletico Madrid | 17 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 30 | 16 | 14 | 34 |
| 5 | Espanyol | 16 | 9 | 3 | 4 | 20 | 16 | 4 | 30 |
| 6 | Real Betis | 16 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 25 | 19 | 6 | 25 |
| 7 | Athletic Club | 17 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 15 | 22 | -7 | 23 |
| 8 | Celta Vigo | 16 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 20 | 19 | 1 | 22 |
| 9 | Sevilla | 16 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 24 | 24 | 0 | 20 |
| 10 | Getafe | 16 | 6 | 2 | 8 | 13 | 18 | -5 | 20 |
| 11 | Elche | 16 | 4 | 7 | 5 | 19 | 20 | -1 | 19 |
| 12 | Alaves | 16 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 14 | 17 | -3 | 18 |
| 13 | Rayo Vallecano | 16 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 13 | 16 | -3 | 18 |
| 14 | Real Mallorca | 16 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 18 | 23 | -5 | 17 |
| 15 | Real Sociedad | 16 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 20 | 24 | -4 | 16 |
| 16 | Osasuna | 16 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 14 | 20 | -6 | 15 |
| 17 | Valencia | 16 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 15 | 25 | -10 | 15 |
| 18 | Girona | 16 | 3 | 6 | 7 | 15 | 30 | -15 | 15 |
| 19 | Real Oviedo | 16 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 7 | 26 | -19 | 10 |
| 20 | Levante | 15 | 2 | 3 | 10 | 16 | 28 | -12 | 9 |

**German Bundesliga Standings**

| # | Team | GP | W | D | L | GF | GA | GD | PTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Bayern | 14 | 12 | 2 | 0 | 51 | 11 | 40 | 38 |
| 2 | RB Leipzig | 14 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 29 | 16 | 13 | 29 |
| 3 | Dortmund | 14 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 24 | 12 | 12 | 29 |
| 4 | Leverkusen | 14 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 30 | 19 | 11 | 26 |
| 5 | Hoffenheim | 14 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 29 | 20 | 9 | 26 |
| 6 | Stuttgart | 14 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 25 | 22 | 3 | 25 |
| 7 | E. Frankfurt | 14 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 29 | 29 | 0 | 24 |
| 8 | Union Berlin | 14 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 19 | 23 | -4 | 18 |
| 9 | SC Freiburg | 14 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 21 | 23 | -2 | 17 |
| 10 | Cologne | 14 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 22 | 23 | -1 | 16 |
| 11 | M'gladbach | 14 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 18 | 22 | -4 | 16 |
| 12 | Werder | 14 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 18 | 28 | -10 | 16 |
| 13 | Wolfsburg | 14 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 20 | 24 | -4 | 15 |
| 14 | Hamburg | 14 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 15 | 24 | -9 | 15 |
| 15 | FC Augsburg | 14 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 17 | 28 | -11 | 13 |
| 16 | St Pauli | 14 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 13 | 26 | -13 | 11 |
| 17 | Heidenheim | 14 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 13 | 30 | -17 | 11 |
| 18 | Mainz | 14 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 13 | 26 | -13 | 7 |

**Test Batting**

| # | Player | Rating | Career best |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Joe Root | 898 | 932 |
| 2 | Kane Williamson | 827 | 919 |
| 3 | Steve Smith | 823 | 947 |
| 4 | Harry Brook | 820 | 898 |
| 5 | Kamindu Mendis | 781 | 784 |
| 6 | Temba Bavuma | 775 | 806 |
| 7 | Travis Head | 774 | 884 |
| 8 | Yashasvi Jaiswal | 750 | 858 |
| 9 | Saud Shakeel | 734 | 787 |
| 10 | Shubman Gill | 730 | 807 |

**Test Bowling**

| # | Player | Rating | Career best |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Jasprit Bumrah | 879 | 908 |
| 2 | Mitchell Starc | 852 | 852 |
| 3 | Matt Henry | 844 | 853 |
| 4 | Noman Ali | 843 | 853 |
| 5 | Marco Jansen | 825 | 825 |
| 6 | Pat Cummins | 821 | 914 |
| 7 | Kagiso Rabada | 807 | 902 |
| 8 | Josh Hazlewood | 799 | 864 |
| 9 | Scott Boland | 770 | 784 |
| 10 | Nathan Lyon | 757 | 812 |

**ODI Batting**

| # | Player | Rating | Career best |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Rohit Sharma | 781 | 882 |
| 2 | Virat Kohli | 773 | 909 |
| 3 | Daryl Mitchell | 766 | 782 |
| 4 | Ibrahim Zadran | 764 | 764 |
| 5 | Shubman Gill | 723 | 847 |
| 6 | Babar Azam | 722 | 898 |
| 7 | Harry Tector | 708 | 767 |
| 8 | Shai Hope | 701 | 802 |
| 9 | Charith Asalanka | 690 | 725 |
| 10 | Shreyas Iyer | 679 | 710 |

**ODI Bowling**

| # | Player | Rating | Career best |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Rashid Khan | 710 | 799 |
| 2 | Jofra Archer | 670 | 683 |
| 3 | Kuldeep Yadav | 655 | 761 |
| 4 | Maheesh Theekshana | 647 | 686 |
| 5 | Keshav Maharaj | 646 | 741 |
| 6 | Bernard Scholtz | 645 | 648 |
| 7 | Mitchell Santner | 636 | 657 |
| 8 | Josh Hazlewood | 628 | 727 |
| 9 | Abrar Ahmed | 624 | 630 |
| 10 | Matt Henry | 619 | 691 |

**T20I Batting**

| # | Player | Rating | Career best |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Abhishek Sharma | 909 | 931 |
| 2 | Phil Salt | 849 | 881 |
| 3 | Pathum Nissanka | 779 | 794 |
| 4 | Tilak Varma | 774 | 845 |
| 5 | Jos Buttler | 770 | 794 |
| 6 | Sahibzada Farhan | 752 | 776 |
| 7 | Travis Head | 713 | 885 |
| 8 | Mitchell Marsh | 684 | 694 |
| 9 | Tim Seifert | 683 | 727 |
| 10 | Suryakumar Yadav | 669 | 912 |

**T20I Bowling**

| # | Player | Rating | Career best |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Varun Chakaravarthy | 818 | 818 |
| 2 | Jacob Duffy | 699 | 750 |
| 3 | Rashid Khan | 694 | 828 |
| 4 | Abrar Ahmed | 691 | 703 |
| 5 | Wanindu Hasaranga | 687 | 809 |
| 6 | Adil Rashid | 686 | 747 |
| 7 | Akeal Hosein | 675 | 726 |
| 8 | Mustafizur Rahman | 665 | 718 |
| 9 | Nathan Ellis | 660 | 678 |
| 10 | Adam Zampa | 655 | 746 |

Think Plots.®
Think KNS.

KNS® INFRA

ಕೆ.ಎನ್.ಎಸ್.
PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/250725/007953
rera.karnataka.gov.in
BDA APPROVED

LAUNCHING

MUSICAL PLOTS WITH
TRIPLE LOCATION ADVANTAGE

2 MINS TO A FOREST
2 MINS TO BENGALURU-MYSURU EXPRESSWAY
10 MINS TO METRO STATION

ARTISTIC IMPRESSION

Visit KNS Sampada Site Office
on Dec 20th & 21st to avail offer

10 mins to Challaghatta Metro Stn.

KNS®
Sampada

NEAR HEJJALA TOLL, MYSORE ROAD

From ₹ 80 Lakhs*

Limited musical themed plots

EXCLUSIVE LAUNCH OFFER
SAVE UP TO ₹15 LAKHS*

Project Details

CREDAI BENGALURU

*T&C Apply

See it to believe it
Call for a site visit

080 47360336

KNS INFRASTRUCTURE PVT. LTD.
#1125/12, 1st Floor, Service Road, Hampinagar, 2nd Stage,
Vijayanagar, Bengaluru - 560 104

A BG-BGE

# I find it very interesting when you open your soul and say what you're thinking

Once the world's youngest GM, Leko is now among the most admired chess commentators. Still a strong player capable of pushing top GMs to the limit, the 46-year-old opens up in this chat about life behind a microphone, almost winning the World title, making an impression in an era headlined by Kasparov, Anand and Kramnik, and being recognised by his voice in India

FIDE

**I was getting so much love and support from the crowd [at the World Cup in Goa]. I really felt like I was at home**

INTERVIEW

## *Peter Leko*

**P.K. Ajith Kumar**

Peter Leko walked into the media room of the Chess World Cup at Resort Rio in the North Goan village of Arpora late one evening last month, looked at the second game of the semifinal match between Wei Yi and Andrey Esipenko on a journalist's laptop, and began to talk. He explained how brilliantly the Chinese Grandmaster defended against the Russian in a tough situation.

Leko's analysis was lucid, in depth. It was a bit like listening to Ian Chappell talk on the Channel 9 broadcast about how Shane Warne was plotting yet another dismissal of Ian Bell. The former challenger for the World title is one of the most admired commentators in chess. The Hungarian, who was once the world's youngest Grandmaster, continues to play, too, at 46. Indeed, before picking up the microphone at the World Cup, he was moving the chess pieces until Arjun Erigaisi knocked him out in the fourth round. Excerpts from an exclusive interview Leko gave *The Hindu*:

**You have a big following here in India as a commentator.**

I had an interesting experience while on a sightseeing tour around Goa during a rest day at the World Cup. I was at Fort Aguada when two visitors suddenly approached me, and they asked me, 'Are you Peter Leko?' I was completely shocked, but said, 'Yes, I am, but how do you know?' They told me they recognised me from my voice. That was a pleasant surprise. This love I felt during the whole tournament was special. I was getting so much love and support from the crowd. I really felt like I was at home.

**When did you discover that you could be a commentator?**

I had quite a lot of experience talking about the game as a prodigy in Germany. I was visiting a lot of clubs because Germany was supporting me. And I was visiting a lot of clubs for simultaneous displays or chess events like that. While I was playing the simultaneous games [against a large number of players], I was giving lectures, and I found out that people very much enjoyed how I talked about the games.

I always find it very interesting when you can open your soul and tell what you were thinking and why you made certain decisions. And even with the mistakes, with the brilliant moves, this was always very special.

Then during the pandemic, I got a chance to commentate on the Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour. It was an amazing experience. I teamed up with Tania Sachdev and she always brings her tremendous passion and energy.

> When Carlsen plays, I feel like 90% of his moves I can automatically feel and anticipate, because he plays very logically. With Arjun [Erigaisi], there is always this unpredictability

**Hungary seems to produce quality chess commentators. There is Judit Polgar...**

Yes, she is incredible. I enjoy listening to her and doing commentary alongside her. We both have an amazing love for the game.

**You came to Goa not as a commentator, but primarily as a player. You had a good tournament until you ran into Arjun.**

I was enjoying the whole World Cup tremendously. I was, first of all, extremely happy to get the chance to play in the World Cup, which I was not expecting. I was thinking I would be helping Vincent Keymer in his preparation for the World Cup. But then suddenly, in the middle of September, I was nominated by the Hungarian federation for the World Cup because Richard Rapport qualified by Elo rating. I just sensed I wanted to be part of it. I also wanted to go to India. I wanted to experience this love of chess in India.

**And at the World Cup, you were the first player to take an in-form Arjun into the tie-breaks.**

I think our match also cost him a lot of extra energy. He knows that I have very good preparation. It was certainly not an easy match for him.

**What makes Arjun special?**

As someone who has done so much commentary on his games, I have found that he is the player whose moves are most difficult to anticipate. He always comes up with some surprises.

He doesn't play exactly according to my older classical chess vision. For example, when Magnus Carlsen plays, I feel like 90% of his moves I can automatically feel and anticipate, because he plays very logically. With Arjun, there is always this unpredictability also in his opening preparation. He is always trying to find some hidden ideas that are not popular.

**Anyone who reminds you of Arjun in style?**

Alexander Morozevich, who was also a very original player. He was the World No. 2 at some point. And that was a very tough period of time, because there were players like Garry Kasparov, Vishy Anand and Vladimir Kramnik. It was an incredible generation, as there were also players like Boris Gelfand, Vasyl Ivanchuk, Veselin Topalov, Peter Svidler, Alexei Shirov... I was privileged to be part of that generation. But back then chess was not that intensive, because there was not this computer craziness.

**You played the World Championship against Kramnik in 2004 and that match was drawn, but according to the rules then, all he needed was a draw to defend his crown.**

I am proud that I got there, after winning the Candidates. My match ended 7-7.

**If it was now, it would have gone to the tiebreakers.**

Yes. I tried to be objective in that match.

**After losing the first game, you came back strongly to win the fifth game and even took the lead, until Kramnik won the very last game to draw level and retain his title.**

Yes, that was during my best years as a player – between 2002 and 2006. Those four years, I was very strong. At that time, Kasparov, Anand, Kramnik, and myself were the world's top four. And whichever player was in the best shape won the particular tournament of the time.

**You also worked as Anand's second.**

We were friends and we started working together in 1996. Vishy invited me to Spain in May, 1996. He was living there then, and I was 16 years old. It was an incredible experience. Then we continued working.

At the World Championship [knock-out] in 1997 in Groningen we both played, but I lost in the first round. I was very disappointed and we were training partners. I started supporting him during the tournament. And then I was also with him already. He invited me to Lausanne for the final match against Anatoly Karpov.

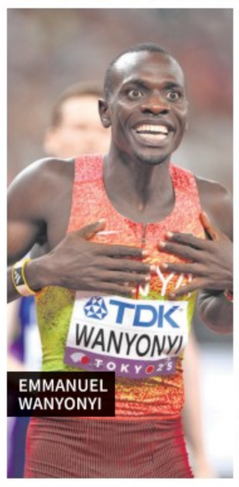
In 2012, before the Gelfand match [which Anand won], I was not an official member of the team, but I actually helped him for almost a month. I was in a training camp with him. We mostly looked at openings, the main ones Boris played. Yeah, but then Boris also was extremely smart, and he came up with surprises.

## GAME THEORY

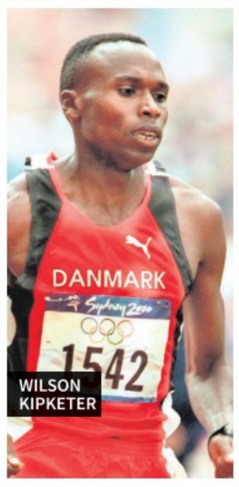
### Wanyonyi vs. the best two-lappers in history

Kenya's Emmanuel Wanyonyi claimed the track athlete of the year award at the World Athletics Awards 2025. And it was for good reason: the 21-year-old became the World and Diamond League 800m champion this year, and set a world-leading time of 1:41.44 in Monaco. How well does the reigning Olympic champion stack up against the best male two-lappers in history? We look at the fastest 800m runs of all time:

DAVID RUDISHA




EMMANUEL WANYONYI




WILSON KIPKETER

**BEST 800M RUNS (MEN)**

| Rank | Mark | Competitor | Venue | Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1:40.91 | David Rudisha | London | 09 Aug 2012 |
| 2 | 1:41.01 | David Rudisha | Rieti | 29 Aug 2010 |
| 3 | 1:41.09 | David Rudisha | Berlin | 22 Aug 2010 |
| 4 | 1:41.11 | Wilson Kipketer | Cologne | 24 Aug 1997 |
| 4 | 1:41.11 | Emmanuel Wanyonyi | Lausanne | 22 Aug 2024 |
| 6 | 1:41.19 | Emmanuel Wanyonyi | Paris | 10 Aug 2024 |
| 7 | 1:41.20 | Marco Arop | Paris | 10 Aug 2024 |
| 8 | 1:41.24 | Wilson Kipketer | Zurich | 13 Aug 1997 |
| 9 | 1:41.33 | David Rudisha | Rieti | 10 Sep 2011 |
| 10 | 1:41.44 | Emmanuel Wanyonyi | Monaco | 11 Jul 2025 |
| 11 | 1:41.46 | Djamel Sedjati | Monaco | 12 Jul 2024 |
| 12 | 1:41.50 | Djamel Sedjati | Paris | 10 Aug 2024 |
| 13 | 1:41.51 | David Rudisha | Heusden-Zolder | 10 Jul 2010 |
| 14 | 1:41.54 | David Rudisha | Paris-St-Denis | 06 Jul 2012 |
| 15 | 1:41.56 | Djamel edjati | Paris | 07 Jul 2024 |
| 16 | 1:41.58 | Emmanuel Wanyonyi | Paris | 07 Jul 2024 |
| 17 | 1:41.61 | Gabriel Tual | Paris | 07 Jul 2024 |
| 18 | 1:41.67 | Bryce Hoppel | Paris | 10 Aug 2024 |
| 19 | 1:41.70 | Emmanuel Wanyonyi | Nairobi | 15 Jun 2024 |
| 20 | 1:41.72 | Marco Arop | Lausanne | 22 Aug 2024 |

SOURCE: WORLD ATHLETICS

## PICTURE THIS

GETTY IMAGES

### Scrambled legs

Goalmouth action in ice hockey can get messy, thanks to the whir of legs, sticks and puck.

This is particularly hard on goaltenders, who have an almost impossible task of keeping their net safe. It can't be easy to manoeuvre yourself — clad in bulky equipment, perched on razor-thin skates — to stop a fast, elusive puck.

But goalies manage it, as the New York Islanders' David Rittich (No. 33) does, in this photograph from a game against the Anaheim Ducks in New York. Playing the angles is essential — a goalie's positioning in front of the net can be the difference between making a save and conceding a goal.

The 'stand-up' style was the preferred method in the sport's early years. Staying upright ensured continued mobility and better access to the upper parts of the net, but was vulnerable to low shots. The 'butterfly' style — knees together, toes out — developed as a means to counter low-angle shots.

Most modern-day goalies use the 'butterfly' or the 'hybrid' style (a mix of the 'stand-up' and the 'butterfly').

Often, they just have to improvise on the go.

# ED attaches ₹8.07 cr. assets of former Minister Nagendra

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

B. Nagendra

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has provisionally attached four immovable properties worth ₹8.07 crore belonging to former Minister B. Nagendra in connection with the case of misappropriation of funds at the Karnataka Maharshi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation (KMVSTDCL).

According to the ED, the attached assets, done under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, include residential and commercial land and buildings.

The ED initiated an investigation based on multiple FIRs filed by the Karnataka Police and the Central Bureau of Investigation regarding misuse of funds from KMVSTDCL.

The central agency had earlier conducted search operations at Mr. Nagendra's house and properties.

It took up a case against 25 accused persons and entities and had earlier arrested the former Minister.

The agency further noted that it had earlier issued a provisional attachment order through which movable and immovable properties worth about ₹4.94 crore belonging to other accused persons were attached.

The agency claimed that it was unable to trace the remaining proceeds of crime allegedly generated by Mr. Nagendra.

The ED stated that the untraced proceeds appear to have been either "exhausted" or "concealed".

Hence, it was forced to attach properties of equivalent value. Accordingly, four immovable properties owned by Mr. Nagendra have been provisionally attached as the equivalent value of the proceeds of crime.

## Memorial lecture tomorrow

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Mythic Society, Bengaluru, will host the Sri Noor Ahmed Ali Khan Memorial Endowment Lecture on Sunday, starting 11 a.m.

The lecture, 'Sri Guruji and National Character', will be delivered by Sudhir, Akhila Bharatiya Sah Bodhik Pramukh of RSS.

# Doctor molested while walking back home after work

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Police have launched a probe to nab a man who allegedly molested a 28-year-old doctor while she was walking back home after her work on Wednesday.

The incident occurred near AGB Layout in northwestern Bengaluru around 12.50 a.m. According to the FIR, the woman had finished her shift at a private hospital and was on her way home when a man on a white scooter stopped her under the pretext of asking for directions to a bus stand.

An investigation office told *The Hindu* that the man then got off the scooter and began touching the woman inappropriately. She started screaming, following which the accused fled the spot on his scooter.

"We have taken up the case and are reviewing digital leads to track the accused. We will arrest him soon," the officer said.

Based on the woman's complaint, the Soladevanahalli police have registered an FIR.

## Interaction series session

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Department of Kannada and Culture will host its monthly interaction series 'Maneyangaladalli Maathukathe' with yet another enriching session scheduled for Saturday at 3 p.m.

It will be held at the Nayana Auditorium, Kannada Bhavana, at the Ravindra Kalakshetra Complex on J.C. Road, Bengaluru.

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

District Administration, Zilla Panchayat, Belagavi,
and Department of Agriculture in collaboration with Sugar Factories

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Launch of New Scheme on
Integrated Soil Health and Water Management in Sugarcane
In Belagavi, Bagalkote, Vijayapura, Kalaburgi and Mandya districts

Promotion of Drip Irrigation and Intercropping in Sugarcane

Hon'ble Chief Minister and Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister along with Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Shri N. Chaluvarayaswamy inaugurating a program to distribute benefits of Agriculture department to the farmers

Mechanization in Trash Management

Support for farmers through Harvester Hub

Collection of trash using Baler to enhance Soil Organic Carbon

Venue:
Near Belgaum Sugars
Hudali, Tq: Belagavi

Date:
20th Dec 2025
10.00 am

Inauguration
Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Karnataka

A warm welcome to the
Hon'ble Ministers, Members of
Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly,
Members of Legislative Council
and all Elected Representatives
and Farmers.

August Presence
Shri D. K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister,
Govt. of Karnataka

Guests of Honour
Shri N. Chaluvarayaswamy
Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture,
Govt. of Karnataka

Smt Lakshmi Hebbalkar
Hon'ble Minister for Women & Child Development
Disabled & Senior Citizens Empowerment
Govt. of Karnataka

Presided By
Shri Satish L. Jarkiholi
Hon'ble Minister for Public Works Department
and District Incharge Minister Belagavi
Govt. of Karnataka

For more information contact Farmers helpline – 1800 425 3553 | KARNATAKA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru-560001

A BG-BGE

## ODISHA STATE SEEDS CORPORATION LIMITED
( A GOVERNMENT UNDERTAKING )
SANTARAPUR, BHUBANESWAR- 751002.
Tel-MD 0674- 2340573, E-Mail: mdosscltd456@gmail.com

**Short e-Tender Call Notice for Procurement of Certified Onion Seeds for Rabi-2025-26**

**NIT No. OSSC/Mktg (Hort)-58/2025**

Interested bidders may visit the e-tender portal i.e. **www.tendersodisha.gov.in** for downloading the document.

Last date of receipt of tender in portal - **23.12.2025 upto 12.30 PM.**

Sd/- **Managing Director, OSSC Ltd.**

CAD-2755: OIPR-01045/11/0125/2526

## OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PWD DIVISION DEWAS
Website: www.mppwd.gov.in
E-mail: eepwddewas@nic.in, eepwddewas@gmail.com
Phone No. 07272-220397, 07272-220585

**TENDER NOTICE**

NIT of 21/SAC/2025-26/5104 Dewas Date 10.12.2025

Online Tender for the work mentioned below are being invited. The Tender has/have been uploaded on the e-Procurement system of Public Works Department on the Portal **www.mptenders.gov.in**. Tender details are as below:-

| S. No. | Tender ID No. | Name of work | Cost of Project (PAC) (Rs. In lack) | Time Period |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1 | 2025_PWDRB_467939_1 | Construction of Samgi to Kamlapur Road Length 3.20 km | 241.32 | 06 Month Including Rainy Season |
| 2 | 2025_PWDRB_467940_1 | Hiring of Vehicle and Machine for Supply of important Materials for Barricading work of Dewas Division | 7.50 | 04 Month Including Rainy Season |
| 3 | 2025_PWDRB_467941_1 | Jirnodhar work of Shri Ram Janki Mandir Village Behadi Tehsil Khategaon | 18.31 | 03 Month IncludingRainy Season |
| | | TOTAL: | 267.13 | |

The document can only be purchased online from the above website after making online payment. The last date & time for purchase of document and online Bid Submission on line is Dated **26.12.2025** up to **17:30 PM**. Detailed NIT and other details can be viewed on the above mentioned portal. Amendments to NIT, if any, would be published on website only, and not in newspaper.

G22906/25 **Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Division Dewas**

Government of Karnataka
## BIDAR CITY CORPORATION
Phone: 08482-240432 Fax: 08482–240432
Web Site:www.bidarcity.mrc.gov.in E-mail ID:itstaff_ulb-bidar@yahoo.com, ka.bidar.cmc@gmail.com
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

No: BMC/ENG/CR-261/2025-26 Dated:-18-12-2025.

**TENDER NOTIFCATION**

1) Name of work **DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT52607,** 2) Estimated cost As per kppp-portal, 3) Eligibility of Agency / Consultant As per kppp-portal, 4) EMD amount As per kppp-portal, 5) Pre Bid Meeting **12-01-2026 at 11.00 AM** 6) Last date for submission of tender **19-01-2026 upto 04.00 PM,** 7) Technical bid opening **20-01-2026 at 04.30 PM,** 8) Address for communication Commissioner, City Corporation Bidar, Pin code 585401, Email:ka.bidar.-cmc@gmail.com, 9) Website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

**Sd/- Commissioner**
**City Municipal Corporation, Bidar**

DIPR/Bidar/265/KSMC&A/2025-26

## NIZAM'S INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES
(A University Established under State Act)
040-23489000/9244 040-23396552 Fax: 040-23310076
Panjagutta, Hyderabad - 500082, Telangana www.nims.edu.in

Invites Bids on e-Procurement Platform (www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in)
e-Procurement Tender Notice

Rc.No.Plng II/20/2024/TCU/Newspapers Dt:19.12.2025

Bids are invited for the following tender notifications from Planning Section of NIMS through e-Procurement Portal (www.eprocurement.telangana.gov.in).

| S.No. | Description |
|---|---|
| 1. | Procurement of Equipment Gel Electrophoresis to Biochemistry Department |
| 2. | Procurement of Surgical Diathermy |
| 3. | Procurement of Bench Top Next Generation Sequencer |

Bidders are requested to visit the above websites for complete tender specifications, amendments, corrigendum, pre-qualification criteria, due dates, regular updates and participation.

**Sd/- Executive Registrar**

DIPR R.O. No.: 936-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26 Date: 19-12-2025

## BHAKRA BEAS MANAGEMENT BOARD

**NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION**

Notice No.: 9/BBMB/CS/C-203 Dated:19/12/2025

Applications are invited for engaging the **eligible candidate** for the assignment titled **"For engagement as Social Expert on contract basis, for implementation of activities under Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) Phase II & III"**

Notice for Engagement of Social Expert, along with detailed Terms of Reference (TOR), Application & CV format regarding engagement of Social Expert, are available on the BBMB website: **https://bbmb.gov.in**

Interested **eligible candidates** may submit their application within **Twenty-one (21) days from the date of advertisement,** via email to **dir-consultancy@bbmb.nic.in**, and also in hard copy in the office of **Director/ Consultancy, BBMB, Sector-19 B, Chandigarh.**

209-PR-Board Sector-5 FOR YOUR BETTER TOMORROW SAVE ENERGY TODAY

## GRIDCO LIMITED
(A Govt. of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office : Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022, ODISHA

**NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR STANDALONE BESS IN ODISHA**

Tender No - **SECI/C&P/IPP/15/0015/25-26 dated 18.12.2025**
Tender Search Code on ISN-ETS - **SECI -2025-TN000027**

The SECI on behalf of GRIDCO Ltd. has issued a tender for setting up of projects of 125 MW/ 500 MWh Standalone Battery Energy Storage Systems across the state of Odisha under Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding with VGF support through PSDF.

Interested bidders may visit ETS portal (**www.bharat-electronictender.com**), SECI website (**www.seci.co.in**) and GRIDCO website (**www.gridco.co.in**) for detailed terms and conditions, information, corrigendum, Amendment etc. with respect to the Tender.

**Chief General Manager (PP)**

CAD-2778 OIPR-04056/11/0041/2526

## PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Ramanagara Special Division, Ramanagara, Bangalore South District.

Tender Notification No. : 16/2025-26 Date : 16-12-2025

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Tenders are invited in **Two Cover System** from the eligible Contractors for **08 Work from Rs. 305.00 Lakhs to Rs. 800.00 Lakhs** through E-procurement Portal as per the Standard Bid Documents. The eligible Contractors can participate in this tender through E-procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

**1) Documents May be Downloaded from 22-12-2025 to 20-01-2026, 2) Last Date for Submission of Tender 20-01-2026 upto 16.00 hours. 3) Date of Pre-Bid Meeting : 12-01-2026 at 11.30 hours, 4) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 21-01-2026 (If possible) at 16.30 hours.**

Tender Processing Fees, EMD as per E-procurement. For more information contact the undersigned during Office Hours.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,**
**PWD, Special Division, Ramanagara, Bangalore South District.**

DIPR/Ramanagar/511/Manipal/2025-26

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client one **MRS.VIJAYA KUMARI**, W/O.LATE S.THANGAVELU, AGED ABOUT 62 YEARS. AADHAAR NO.373207091892.PAN NO.BIIPM4441C, R/AT No.1067.15TH MAIN 7TH CROSS,BABY SAKUNTHALA NILAYAM BTM 1ST STAGE,1ST PHASE BANGALORE-29. is absolute owner of the schedule property.

My client One **MRS.VIJAYA KUMARI**, she Lost the Registered Sale Deed Dated.13.04.1987. vide **Document No.656/1987-88**, Volume No.1089. page No.22 to 25 Registered before sub–Registrar Jayanagar Bangalore she Lost the Sale Deed of below Mentioned Schedule Property Regarding the loss of the Document, she have lodged the complaint Before Police Bangalore City. Complaint NO.1964428/2025. dated.18/12/2025.If any person found this document kindly return the document to police or me and if any person uses this document illegally are create charge/made any transaction other than my client is not responsible for that.

**SCHEDULE**

ALL THAT PIECE AND PORTION OF THE PROPERTY BEARING **NO.19/11**, MUNICIPAL NO 19/4. **BBMP E AASTHI NO.1059570377,** PID NO. 66-77-19/4, IN SY NO. NO.84/2. SITUATED AT,7TH CROSS ROAD AREA BETWEEN CHIKKADUGODI, MADIVALA MARUTHI NAGAR BANGALORE OLD CORPORATION DIVISION NO.58. BBMP OLD WARD NO.66.AT PRESENT **7TH CROSS ROAD MARUTHINAGAR BBMP NEW WARD NO.152. BANGALORE** MEASURING EAST TO WEST 20 FEET, NORTH TO SOUTH 40 FEET IN ALL MEASURING 800 SQ FEET. BOUNDED ON:

EAST BY : PROPERTY NO.18. BELONGS TO GANGADARAPPA
WEST BY : HOUSE BELONGS TO T.V.VENKATASUBBAIAH
NORTH BY : 7TH CROSS ROAD.
SOUTH BY : PROPERTY NO.20.

**FAIYAZULLA H,** ADVOCATE
NO.1/18. 1st Main SRK Garden,
BANGALORE-560041. (M) 07829989347

## OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

### DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

43rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

**Mrs K.JAYALAKSHIMI**
DOD: 20-12-1982
W/o. Late Mr. G.Krishnamurthy Achary
*Fondly remembered by:*
Sons: K.Sundararajan, Dakshinamurthy, Jayakumar,
Daughters: Mrs.Padmavathi, Mrs.Kasthuri

**IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES**
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
**Bengaluru:** 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
**Hubballi:** 0836 - 2338600
**Mangaluru:** 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
**Rate for Karnataka:**
Minimum: Rs. 320/- for 2 lines.
Extra line: Rs. 160/-
B/W Display: Rs. 95/- per sq.cm;
Colour Display: Rs. 105/- per sq.cm
**For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehinduads.com**
**DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT**

## ODISHA COOPERATIVE TASAR & SILK FEDERATION LTD (SERIFED)
Saheed Nagar, Janpath, Bhubaneswar -751007.
Tel: 0674-2545852(FAX)/2545586 (Off.)
Email-serifedodisha@gmail.com

Notification No. III-1(1) Serifed/25-26/ 2191 Date: 17.12.2025

**TENDER NOTICE FOR CONVERSION OF SILK COCOONS TO SPUN YARN**

**Odisha Cooperative Tasar & Silk Federation Ltd. (SERIFED)** invites applications from experienced spinning mills possessing adequate infrastructure and proven expertise in processing silk cocoons for conversion of **Tasar, Mulberry and Eri silk cocoons, as well as Tasar peduncle, into spun silk yarn on job-work basis.**

Sealed tenders in the prescribed format, duly addressed to the **Managing Director, Odisha Cooperative Tasar & Silk Federation Ltd., Sahid Nagar, Janapath, Bhubaneswar,** should be submitted **only through Registered Post / Speed Post / recognized Courier Service.**

The envelope must be clearly super scribed as: **"Tender for Conversion of Silk Cocoons into Spun Silk Yarn."**

The **last date and time for receipt of sealed tenders is 30.12.2025 up to 5:00 PM.**

The parties who have already submitted their tenders in response to **Limited Tender Notice No. 2112 dated 05.12.2025** need not apply again.

The detailed **terms and conditions**, along with the **prescribed tender format,** are available for download from the website of the **State Institute for Development of Arts & Crafts (SIDAC), Government of Odisha, Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts Department :www.sidacodisha.org.in.**

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders, either wholly or partly, without assigning any reason thereof.

**Managing Director,**
**Odisha Cooperative Tasar & Silk Federation Ltd. (SERIFED)**

CAD-2752: OIPR-31005/11/0029/2526

## DIRECTORATE OF HANDICRAFTS, ODISHA
1ST FLOOR, HOD BUILDING, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR -751001

**TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF IMPROVED TOOLKIT SETS ON TERRACOTTA, DHOKRA CASTING & TRIBAL JEWELLERY CRAFTS**

No. 7738 Date 19.12.2025

The Directorate of Handicrafts, Odisha under the administrative control of the Handlooms, Textiles & Handicrafts Department, Government of Odisha, is engaged in the promotion and development of the handicrafts sector in the State.

Sealed tenders in big size envelope along with the requisite documents are invited from interested and experienced agencies having the required eligibility and expertise in the relevant field to provide end-to-end services for the supply of Improved Toolkit Sets in Terracotta, Dhokra Casting, and Tribal Jewellery Crafts to the Directorate of Handicrafts, Odisha.

The Bid Document can be downloaded from the website **https://crafts.odisha.gov.in**. The bidder is required to submit the cost of the bid document amounting to Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand only) in the form of a Demand Draft drawn in favour of The Director of Handicrafts, Odisha along with the Technical Bid.

The last date for receipt of sealed bids in this Directorate is up to **5.00 PM on 09.01.2026** through Speed Post / Registered Post / Courier only. The Technical Bids will be opened at **11.00 AM on 13.01.2026** in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives. The Financial Bids of technically qualified bidders will be opened on a suitable date and time, which will be intimated separately to the qualified bidders.

The bidders must submit all documents as specified in the bid document along with the Technical Bid and Financial Bid strictly in accordance with the detailed terms and conditions.

The competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/-
**Director of Handicrafts, Odisha**

PP-05: OIPR-31034/11/0008/2526

## OFFICE OF THE PRL. DISTRICT & SESSIONS JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL DISTRICT, BENGALURU

Accts./44/2025 (Cleaning Persons) Date : 18.12.2025

**SHORT E- TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Subject: Inviting Proposals for providing cleaning staff through Outsource for cleaning purpose to the Courts of Bengaluru Rural District Unit based on the area of the court complexes -reg.

Ref: **1.** Letter No. LAW-LAC/82/2025 dated 25.09.2025 of the Prl. Secretary to the Government, LAW, Justice and Human Rights, Karnataka State Government, Vidhana Soudha

**2.** Letter No. DJA/82/2007 dated 08.10.2025 of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru

**3.** Office Note and Orders passed thereon

This Office invites e-Bidding Request For Proposals from eligible Manpower Service providers / House Keeping Agencies / Firms who are interested for providing cleaning services by deploying persons through Outsource on Service Contract basis for cleaning purpose in all the Court complexes of Bengaluru Rural District Unit (Courts situated in the City Civil Court Complex, Courts situated in BSNL Building and Courts situated in Criminal Court Complex in Bengaluru, Court Complex at Anekal, Devanahalli, Doddaballapura, Hosakote, Nelamangala, K.R. Puram Talukas) and having business / branch office at Bengaluru City and Bengaluru Rural District, only, through e-procurement portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/Auctions/live), for a period of 01 year, which may be extended for two more years, (total 03 years), renewable each year, from the date of commencement and extendable beyond, until the onboarding of next subsequent agency. The details are as hereunder:

| Sl. No. | Item | Details |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Tender Number | Accts./44/2025 (Cleaning Persons) Dated: 17.12.2025 |
| 2 | Tender Number (as issued by KPPP | HCK/2025-26/SE0127 Dated 17.12.2025 |
| 3 | Tender Name/ Service sought for: | Procurement of cleaning services by deploying persons through Outsource on Service Contract basis for cleaning purpose in all the Court complexes of Bengaluru Rural District Unit on the basis of area of the premises i.e., 38,062.96 Sq.m in total, to perform all cleaning but not limited to the services mentioned in the Notification in the below table. The Bidding amount should include all the expenditure such as wages and statutory benefits, if applicable to the manpower, cost of the cleaning materials, equipment costs, charges and taxes, for the above said services, whatsoever it may be. |
| 4 | Procurement entity | Prl. District & Sessions Judge, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru |
| 5 | Tendering Authorities | Inviting Authority: The Chief Administrative Officer, District & Sessions Court, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru<br>Evaluating Authority: The Chief Administrative Officer, District & Sessions Court, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru<br>Accepting Authority: Prl. District & Sessions Judge, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru<br>Appellate Authority: The Registrar General, Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru. |
| 6 | Validity of the Tender contract | 01 year, which may be extended for two more years, (total 03 years), renewable each year, subject to the satisfactory work quality /performance or until order of discontinuation of the said services |
| 7 | Bidding Mode | The Grand total of contract amount (including all the expenditure such as wages to the manpower, cost of the cleaning materials, necessary equipments service charges and taxes, for the above said services for 12 month (01 year), whatsoever it may be. |
| 8 | Estimated Approximate Total Tender Cost | No estimation drawn, as no such reference to calculate for the said services is found. **Rs.50,00,000/-** is taken as Nominal Estimated Tender Cost to be shown for KPP website requirement only. |
| 9 | EMD Amount | **Rs.50,000/- (Nominal EMD with no link to Tender estimation cost) PBG will be based on the Tender awarded value.** |
| 10 | Billing model | Billing after completion of each calendar month, subject to satisfactory performance |
| 11 | Last date for clarification : **26.12.2025 at 5:00p.m.** | |
| 12 | Pre-bid Meeting Venue | 26.12.2025 at 5.00 p.m., at the Chamber of Prl. District & Sessions Judge, Bengaluru Rural District, City Civil Court Complex, Bengaluru-560009 |
| 13 | Pre-bid Meeting Attendance compulsory | Yes. Certificate of Attendance issued by this Office, to be uploaded at relevant column in KPP portal. |
| 14 | Closing Date and Time for submission of Tender proposal: **29/12/2025 at 3:00 p.m.** | |
| 15 | Tender Opening Date and Time | Technical: **30/12/2025 at 03:01 p.m.**<br>Financial: Upon approval of Technical Bid |
| 16 | Office Contact Number and e-mail ID | 080-22939382<br>bngrur002@gmail.com |

--subject to the terms and conditions as stipulated in the Full e-Tender Notification of the even reference no., the Eligible and Interested vendors, in acceptance to the above stated details, terms and conditions may submit their e-Bidding Proposals, through e-procurement portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/).**

DIPR/CP/4552/Zen/2025-26

BY ORDER OF PRL. DISTRICT JUDGE
I/c. Chief Administrative Officer, CDistrict & Sessions Court, Bengalurur Rural District, Bengaluru

## BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No: BDA/2025-26/SE0082 Date:19.12.2025

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Bangalore Development Authority invites tenders for **"Supply and Commissioning of Enterprise Network Infrastructure for IT Operations Hub at BDA".**

Tender documents are available on the e-Procurement portal from **18.12.2025,** and the last date for bid submission is **30.12.2025, 5:30 PM.** Technical bids will be opened on **01.01.2026 at 11:30 AM.** Interested bidders may refer to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for detailed information or contact the EDP Cell, BDA, Bengaluru.

**Note:** Any changes or updates will be published only on the e-Procurement portal, so bidders are requested to check the portal regularly.

**Sd/- Head of Department, EDP Cell, BDA, Bengaluru.**

## KARNATAKA SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION SOCIETY (KSTePS)
Dept. of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology
5th Floor, 5th Gate, M.S. Building, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru - 560001. Ph: 080-2203 2013, Email: visiongroup.st@gmail.com

No. DST/KSTePS/VGST/2025-26 Date: 20.12.2025

**NOTIFICATION**
**CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS UNDER VGST FOR THE FY 2025-26**

Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka invites online proposals under the following VGST schemes during the FY 2025-26:

1. **Grants for Research Excellence (GRE)**
2. **Karnataka Fund for Infrastructure Strengthening in Science & Technology (K-FIST L1 & L2)**
3. **Early Career Research Award (ECRA)**
4. **Award for Outstanding Research Publications (AORP)**
5. **Faculty Development Program (FDP)**

Interested higher educational institutions affiliated to Karnataka State Universities (Government and Private) and State Research Centres shall submit online proposals through the link **https://vgst.karnataka.gov.in/PPMS on or before 19.01.2026 (5:00 PM).** For more information, visit VGST website:**https://vgstdst.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
**Managing Director**

DIPR/CP/JA/4543/2025-26

## GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
## ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BELLARY
**Office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bellary.**

No. EE/PRED/BLY/AE-1/Various Heads/2025-26/ 1496 Dt. 17-12-2025.

**Short Term Tender Notification (Through KPPP Portal only)**

On behalf of Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka tenders are invited from the eligible contractors who have enrolled in Panchayath Raj Engineering Department for 11 works comprising of approved Building works under 2024-25 CM SPL GRANT and 2025-26 ZP Untide 2515-00-196-1-22-300 through KPPP portal.

**Indent No.**
**1.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21566**
**2.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21700**
**3.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21698**
**4.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21636**
**5.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21639**
**6.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21650**
**7.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21663**
**8.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21709**
**9.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21710**
**10.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT18298/Call-3**
**11.RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT21402**

Contractors are required to submit the tender before **24-12-2025 at 4.30** PM by uploading the relevant documents through KPPP portal website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in by downloading the formats for submission of tenders from **17-12-2025 to 24-12-2025 at 4.30 PM.** Tenders will be opened through KPPP portal on **26-12-2025 at 10.30 AM.** Any changes in the notification will be published KPPP website only. Accepting/rejection of tenders without assigning reason is reserved. Any details can be obtained in person at the office or through telephone No. 08392-266173.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,**
**Panchayath Raj Engineering Division Ballari**

DIPR/Ballari/804/KSMCA/2025-26


**Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder**

Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

THE HINDU | the hindu businessline | FRONTLINE | SPORTSTAR | The Hindu Young World | THE HINDU


## CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ■ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ■ 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ■ 2335700

### PERSONAL

### LOST & FOUND

**I am** Raunak. My 10th Class Pass Certificate has been irretrievably lost issued in year 2008 by ICSE Board by St. Teresa's School, Bhagalpur. Index No.: T/4734/066. If found, please contact 9740031963 .

### EDUCATIONAL

### GENERAL


**ANTHRO**
Batches Start: Dec 27, Jan 5
OUR TOPPERS IAS 2024
TARGET 300+ ? ASK VAID SIR How?
Dec 23 12 noon
Scan QR to Register
Saichaitanya 283/500
Manish 285/500
THEY SCORED (Classroom Students) MORE IN OPTIONAL THAN AIR 1(279) & AIR 2(269) {PSIR}
VAID'S ICS, DELHI
to know more visit www.vaidsics.com or call 953 800 1600


A BG-BGE

# HC quashes KCOCA invocation against MLA; rejects anticipatory bail plea

The High Court says the legal requirement of organised crime is not satisfied in this case; it asks Byrathi Basavaraj to knock on the doors of the sessions court for anticipatory bail as there is no bar for the latter to now consider his plea

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

In a relief to BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj, the High Court of Karnataka on Friday quashed the invocation of provisions of the stringent Karnataka Control of Organised Crime Act (KCOCA), 2000, against him and other accused persons in the case of murder of a realtor, Shivaprakash alias Bikla Shiva, who was killed on July 15.

However, the MLA faced a partial setback too as the High Court simultaneously rejected his plea for grant of anticipatory bail while asking him to knock on the doors of the sessions court for this purpose. It pointed out that there is no bar on the sessions court now to consider his plea for anticipatory bail in view of the quashing of KCOCA.

Byrathi Basavaraj

Justice S. Sunil Dutt Yadav passed the order while allowing the petition filed by Mr. Basavaraj, who had questioned the legality of invoking KCOCA against him, and rejecting his interlocutory application (IA) seeking anticipatory bail. Meanwhile, Mr. Basavaraj on Friday withdrew his petition challenging the First Information Report registered against him in the murder case. The withdrawal of this petition has resulted in the end of an interim protection, of "not to take coercive step against him", granted by the High Court in August during the pendency of this petition.

Analysing the order of invoking KCOCA, Justice Yadav said that the legal requirement of organised crime, which involves "continuing unlawful activity as contemplated under Sections 2(1)(d) and 2(1)(e) of KCOCA", is not satisfied in this case.

"None of the other accused persons have against them two chargesheets involving offences of punishment of more than three years," the High Court stated, since this is a requirement for bringing the offenders under KCOCA provisions. The Court held that the order of approving the invocation of KCOCA against the accused would not stand legal scrutiny.

Though only Mr. Basavaraj had challenged the invocation of KCOCA, the Court gave the benefit of it being quashed for the other accused too. Though the High Court rejected his IA for plea for grant of anticipatory bail, it made it clear that "observations made by it are limited to the disposal of the present IA and must not be construed to be a conclusive finding on the merits" of the plea for bail. The liberty is reserved to the petitioner to seek appropriate relief of bail as is permissible in law before the appropriate Court.

"Further, investigation is still to be completed, and an order granting anticipatory bail may interfere with investigation of a heinous offence," the High Court observed.

# 'State government aware of 150-km rule for second airport'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Infrastructure Development Minister M.B. Patil on Friday said that the State government is aware that permission from Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL), the operator of the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), is required to construct Bengaluru's second international airport and that the relevant condition remains valid until 2033.

He said that keeping this in mind and adopting a long-term perspective, the State government has initiated preparatory work well in advance.

Mr. Patil was responding to a question raised during the recent Assembly session regarding the proposed second international airport for Bengaluru.

At the time of commissioning KIA, a condition was imposed, prohibiting the development of another airport within a 150-km radius until 2033.

"However, similar conditions have been relaxed in cities such as New Delhi and Navi Mumbai to facilitate the development of second airports. This matter will be addressed appropriately at the appropriate time," he said.

Mr. Patil said that several critical steps are involved in establishing an airport, including site identification, inspections, land acquisition, and disbursement of compensation.

"Completing these processes alone would take at least five to six years. Approval from BIAL would be required only after these stages are completed. Therefore, tenders have been invited through the Karnataka State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (KSIIDC) to prepare a location suitability report along with a comprehensive technical and financial feasibility study," he said.

He added that five months will be given for submission of the report to the government.

A high-level team from the Airports Authority of India had earlier inspected the sites at Choodahalli and Somanahalli on Kanakapura Road, as well as another location on the Nelamangala-Kunigal Road, and submitted its report to the government.

"Based on this assessment, the tenders have now been invited," Mr. Patil added.

On Thursday, Minister of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol, replying to a question by P.C. Mohan, Bengaluru Central MP, on whether the Centre has received any proposal for a second airport for Bengaluru city and whether the reopening of HAL Airport or developing a second airport would require any modification of the existing concession agreement with KIA, had said, "The prefeasibility study report has been sent to the Karnataka government. The Government of India has not received any proposal thereafter under Green Field Airport Policy either from the Karnataka government or any airport developer for development of a second Greenfield Airport near Bengaluru."

# Decision to revoke colony's biodiversity tag draws ire

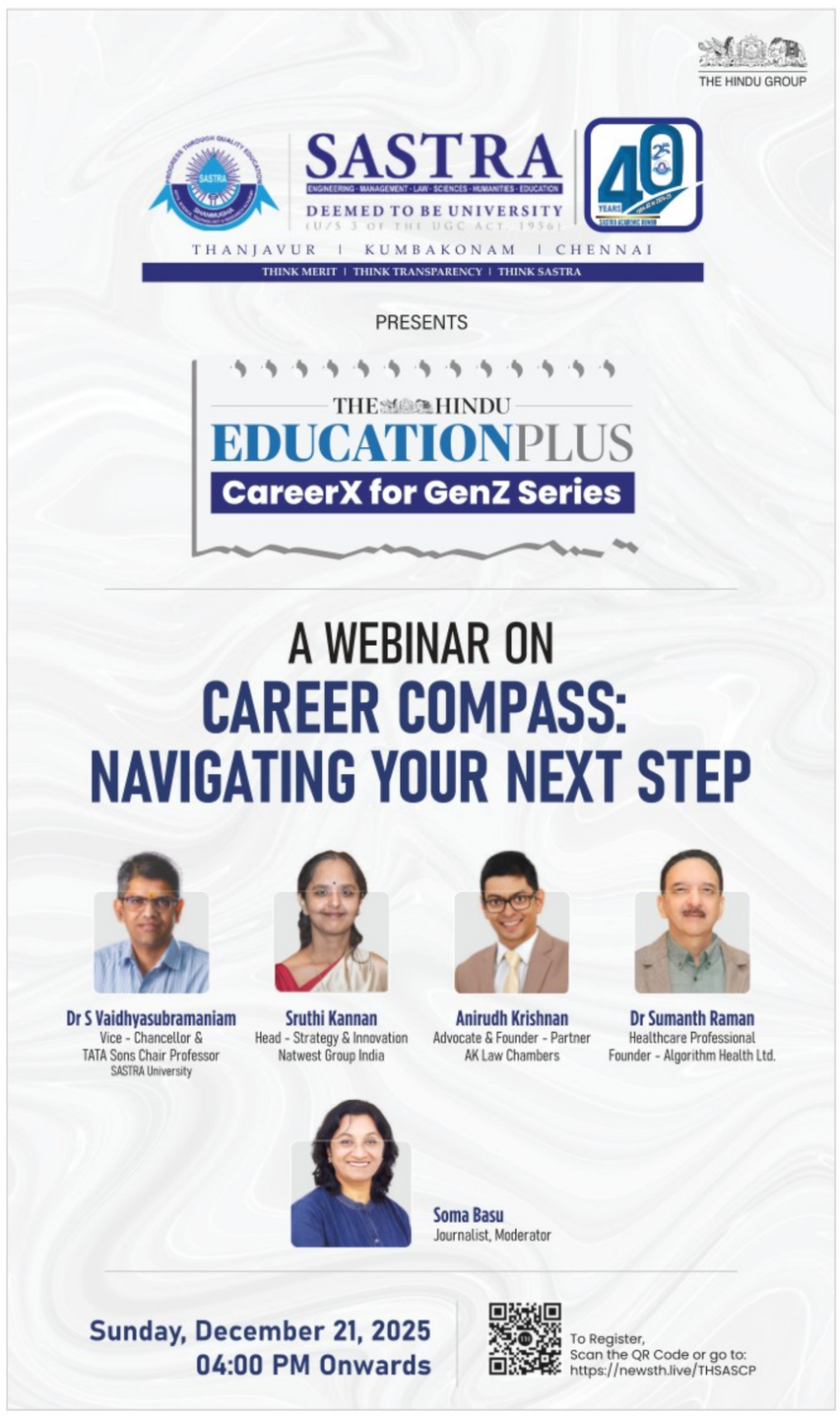
**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

An environmental organisation, Parisarakkagi Naavu, has criticised the State Forest, Ecology and Environment Department for withdrawing its earlier order to bestow biodiversity heritage site tag to the 8.61-acre Cantonment Railway Colony in Bengaluru.

Former MLA and environmentalist A.T. Ramaswamy, who is also the president of the organisation, on Friday, said that the reason given by Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre for withdrawing its earlier notification issued on September 10 reflects the inefficiency and irresponsibility of the department.

Mr. Khandre had said that the State government is withdrawing the September 10 order owing to legal restrictions under the Railway Act.

"The Environment Minister said that the Railway Land Authority has promised to relocate and replant these trees. This statement by the Minister shows that the protection of 371 huge trees is not his priority, but rather to allow the trees to be cut down and to construct buildings there," he said.




GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
STATE EXCISE DEPARTMENT
Office of the Excise Commissioner, 2nd Floor, TTMC 'A' Block, BMTC Building, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027

e-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

Excise Department invites bids from eligible bidders for Grant of Unused Excise Licences to Successful H-1 bidders in Form CL-2A and CL-9A for vend of Indian Liquor or Foreign Liquor or both, through e-Auction platform **https://www.mstcecommerce.com,** for the period of 05 Excise Years including the Excise Year in which the auction is conducted and Letter Of Acceptance (LOA) is issued.

Government Notification No: FD 52 EFL 2025 Dated: 19-12-2025 containing detailed guidelines, terms and conditions regarding the e-Auction, District-wise licence details, reservation details, Application Fee, Earnest Money Deposit, Base Price and Post Auction details are available in the departmental website **https://stateexcise.karnataka.gov.in** and in the M.S.T.C. Limited portal **https://www.mstcecommerce.com.**

**Schedule of eAuction is as under:**

| Particulars | Date |
|---|---|
| Starting of Registration of the bidders. | **22-12-2025** |
| Conducting training to the Prospective bidders and District e-Auction Nodal Officers. | **23-12-2025 to 07-01-2026** |
| Live Bidding. | **13-01-2026 to 20-01-2026** |

Bidders are eligible to participate in the online Auction only after the Registration process is completed and the payment is confirmed online in their wallet. Hence, Bidders are advised to complete the registration process 48 hours before the start of auction of a particular slot in which they wish to participate. Bidders are advised to adhere to these advisories as a precautionary measure to avoid any delays in case of network failure and other technical issues.

However, Bidder can register two working days prior to the Scheduled e-Auction of respective slots (excluding Central/State Government Holidays).

Training Schedule issued by the Excise Commissioner will be published in Excise Department Website **https://stateexcise.karnataka.gov.in** and MSTC e-Auction Portal **https://www.mstcecommerce.com.**

**Schedule of Live Bidding.**

**Date: 13-01-2026**

| SLOT-01 (10 AM-12 PM) | | SLOT-02 (3 PM -5 PM) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **DISTRICT** | **No. of LICENCES** | **DISTRICT** | **No. of LICENCES** |
| BUD-01 | 21 | BUD-05 | 14 |
| Bidar | 11 | Chickamagalur | 12 |
| Haveri | 14 | Kalburagi | 15 |
| **Total** | **46** | **Total** | **41** |

**Date: 14-01-2026**

| SLOT-01 (10 AM-12 PM) | | SLOT-02 (3 PM -5 PM) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **DISTRICT** | **No. of LICENCES** | **DISTRICT** | **No. of LICENCES** |
| BUD-02 | 28 | BUD-06 | 26 |
| Hassan | 13 | Shivamogga | 15 |
| Raichur | 09 | Yadgiri | 06 |
| **Total** | **50** | **Total** | **47** |

**Date: 16-01-2026**

| SLOT-01 (10 AM-12 PM) | | SLOT-02 (3 PM -5 PM) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **DISTRICT** | **No. of LICENCES** | **DISTRICT** | **No. of LICENCES** |
| BUD-3 | 25 | BUD-7 | 22 |
| Belagavi North | 10 | Ballary | 12 |
| Uttara Kannada | 14 | Bagalkote | 08 |
| **Total** | **49** | **Total** | **42** |

**Date: 17-01-2026**

| SLOT-01 (10 AM-12 PM) | | SLOT-02 (3 PM -5 PM) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **DISTRICT** | **No. of LICENCES** | **DISTRICT** | **No. of LICENCES** |
| BUD-4 | 13 | BUD-8 | 33 |
| Tumakuru | 24 | Chickballapura | 11 |
| Koppal | 06 | Mysuru Rural | 14 |
| **Total** | **43** | **Total** | **58** |

**Date: 19-01-2026**

| SLOT-01 (10 AM-12 PM) | | SLOT-02 (3 PM -5 PM) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **DISTRICT** | **No. of LICENCES** | **DISTRICT** | **No. of LICENCES** |
| Davanagere | 12 | Vijayapura | 08 |
| Vijayanagara | 10 | Chamrajanagara | 07 |
| Chitradurga | 12 | Dakshina Kannada | 30 |
| Mandya | 15 | Gadag | 08 |
| **Total** | **49** | **Total** | **53** |

**Date: 20-01-2026**

| SLOT-01 (10 AM-12 PM) | | SLOT-02 (3 PM -5 PM) | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **DISTRICT** | **No. of LICENCES** | **DISTRICT** | **No. of LICENCES** |
| Kolar | 15 | Bengaluru Rural | 11 |
| Dharwad | 19 | Mysuru Urban | 13 |
| Kodagu | 03 | Bengaluru South | 11 |
| Belagavi South | 11 | Udupi | 08 |
| **Total** | **48** | **Total** | **43** |

**Dated : 19.12.2025**
**Sd/-**
**Excise Commissioner in Karnataka, Bengaluru**

DIPR/CP/4558/Zen/2025-26

# Driverless train prototype for Pink Line to arrive at Kothanur depot soon

Earlier this year, BEML unveiled the prototype of its new driverless metro train developed for Namma Metro's Phase-2 corridors, including Phase 2A and 2B

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The prototype trainset for Bengaluru Metro's much-awaited Pink Line is expected to be moved to the Kothanur depot within the next couple of days, with preparations under way to transport the six-coach trainsets by road, officials of Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) said.

Sources in BMRCL told *The Hindu* that the trainset, which was recently rolled out by BEML Ltd., will be dismantled and carried on trailers from the BEML Rail Complex at New Thippasandra to the Kothanur depot, a distance of nearly 20 km.

"The entire exercise is expected to take a day, though the movement will be carried out exclusively during night hours, as the transport of heavy trailers is permitted only at night within city limits," official said.

BEML had, on December 11, 2025, unveiled the prototype of its new driverless metro train developed for Namma Metro's Phase-2 corridors, including Phase 2A and 2B. The Pink Line, one of the most anticipated stretches in Bengaluru's metro network, will connect Kalena Agrahara in south Bengaluru to Nagawara in the north. The corridor is planned to be commissioned in two phases by the end of 2026.

J. Ravishankar, M.D., BMRCL, reviewing the progress of the Pink Line works in Bengaluru on Friday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Once the trainset reaches the depot, BMRCL will initiate the process of obtaining mandatory statutory clearances from the Ministry of Railways, the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), and the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS). Officials said, "The rolling stock will undergo a series of standard tests before being cleared for passenger operations".

Meanwhile, BMRCL Managing Director J. Ravishankar on Friday inspected the Kothanur depot, where officials said all preparatory arrangements have been completed to receive the trainset and begin the testing phase. "During the visit, Mr. Ravishankar reviewed the progress of Pink Line construction works, including elevated stations and underground sections. The inspection covered underground stations and tunnel stretches between M.G. Road-Shivajinagar and Tannery Road-Venkateshpura, with an emphasis on adherence to timelines and seamless execution," said, B.L. Yashwanth Chavan, Chief Public Relations Officer (PRO), BMRCL

Under the current contract, BEML will supply 318 standard-gauge coaches for both the Pink Line and the Blue Line, which serve the Kempegowda International Airport. The trainsets, fully designed and manufactured at BEML's Bengaluru facility, will be tested and commissioned as per BMRCL's rollout schedule.

The ₹3,177-crore contract includes comprehensive maintenance support for up to 15 years, secured by BEML through a competitive bidding process.

# Yellow Line services to start an hour late tomorrow

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Train services on Namma Metro's Yellow Line will begin one hour later than the scheduled time on Sunday due to urgent systems maintenance and upgradation works being undertaken to optimise operations, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) said in a release.

According to BMRCL, the first train will depart at 8 a.m. instead of the usual 7 a.m. The services will thereafter run as per the regular Sunday timetable. The revised timing will be in effect only for a single day and will not impact services beyond that date.

**BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED**
Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML, 1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560 052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/PR/896/2025-26 Date:19.12.2025

**TENDER CANCELLATION NOTIFICATION**

This is to inform the general public and all concerned that the above referred tender notification No: **DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/15/2025-26,** issued by Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML on 15.12.2025 has been cancelled due to technical reasons.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1
BSWML

DIPR/CP/JA/4559/2025-26



**GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA**
**PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA**

No.EE:PWD:CTA:AE-1:Tender-48:2025-26 Dated:- 17.12.2025

**SHOR TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION**

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

**Name of work:- Two cover System :- Head of Account 4059-80-051-0-29-386 Department Buildings:- (1) Improvement of Samudaya Bhavana work in premises of kellodu village shakha mat in Hosadurga Taluk (W.I.NO. 28769)**

**Estimate Cost Rs. in Lakhs:-150.00**

Tender dates are as mentioned below:Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications 24-12-2025 Time: 17.30
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders 26-12-2025 Time: 16.00
Date & time for opening of Technical Bid 29-12-2025 Time: 16.15
Date & time for opening of Financial Bid 31-12-2025 Time: 11.00
Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/543/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD, Chitradurga.



**ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ**
ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562123
ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–27722135
Email : ka.nelmangala.cmc@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಸನೆ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ(ವಿ)/ಟೆಂಡರ್/44/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 19.12.2025

**ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ)**
**(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ)**

**(ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ KW 1&2 ರ & KG ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳಂತೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ & ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ)**

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ 2018–19ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ವಿಶೇಷ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುಧಾನದಡಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ 2ನೇ ಬಾರಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ: 399.40 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ** ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ನ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

| ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. | ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ | ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ) | ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ ವಿವರ |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01 | DMA/2025-26/BR/WORKINDENT48577/CALL-2 | 99.80 | ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ |
| 02 | DMA/2025-26/BR/WORKINDENT48417/CALL-2 | 99.90 | ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ |
| 03 | DMA/2025-26/BR/WORKINDENT48536/CALL-2 | 99.90 | CAT-II(A) |
| 04 | DMA/2025-26/BR/WORKINDENT48541/CALL-2 | 99.80 | ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ |

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮುಂತಾದ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಹಾಗೂ ನಗರಸಭೆಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಶ್ರೀ ಗಣೇಶ್ ಎನ್ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ

ಶ್ರೀ ಆನಂದ್ ಜಿ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ

ಶ್ರೀ ಬಿ. ಪದ್ಮನಾಭ್ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸ್ಥಾಯಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ

ಶ್ರೀ ಗಂಗಾಧರ್ ಹೆಚ್ ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ನೆಲಮಂಗಲ

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/4557/ಶಿರಡಿ ಸಾಯಿ/2024–25



**Shivamogga City Corporation, Shivamogga**

ಕ್ರಮಾಂಕ: ಶಿಮನಪಾಶಿ:ಕಾವಿ:ಟೆಂಡರ್:41/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 18.12.2025

**TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**(Through e- Procurement portal)**

Tenders have been invited through KPP portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Standard Tender Document procedure to undertake the following works in the limits of Shivamogga City Corporation. The bidders who are interested in participating through KPP portal can obtain the details in website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

**1.**Last date for submission of tender through kpp portal : **26.12.2025 upto 4.00 P M**

**2.**Indent No.51643/Call-2, 50720/Call-2, 52508 & 52632. Date of opening of technical bid : **29.12.2025 at 4.30 P M**

**3.** Indent No.51643/Call-2 & 50720/Call-2. Date of opening of financial bid: **30.12.2025 at 4.30 P M**

**a.** Works to be participated by Schedule Caste (SC) contractors : Indent 50720/Call-2

**b.** Works to be participated by others : Indent 51643/Call-2, 52508 & 52632.

**4.** Grants: Corporation's Enterprises Fund, Corporation's General Fund for 2025-26

**NOTE:** More details can be had from kpp portal and other details from the Notice Board at the office. Any changes or corrigendum will be published through kpp portal only.

DIPR/SMG/No- 86-12/zenkar/2025-26

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
City Corporation, Shivamogga



**University of Mysore**
Viswavidyanilaya Karya Soudha, Crawford Hall, Post Box No.406
Mysore-570 005-**570 005. Phone.: 2419222/2419361**
**E-mail: registrar@uni-mysore.ac.in Website: www.uni-mysore.ac.in**

No. GL5/168/2025-26. Date : 18.12.2025

**Tender Notification**

The Registrar, University of Mysore, Mysuru invites tenders from the Eligible Registered Leading caterers for 'Supplying of Catering Services to meetings, functions & other special days held at various departments/offices & other buildings of Univerisy of Mysuru for 01 year as per the KTPP Act through KPPP portal of Government of Karnataka. in two cover tender system. The last date for submission of tender is **01.01.2026 up to 4:00 pm.** The details can be obtained in e-procurement website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Details of terms and conditions are uploaded in e-procurement portal. For further details please contact Telephone No: 0821-2419222/361.

DIPR/MYS/1390/SA/2025-26

Sd/- Registrar
University of Mysore



**Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports**
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560 001
Ph: 080-22215601, 22211246. Fax: 080-22215602

No: DYES/SSH/245/2025-26 Dated: 17-12-2025

**Short-Term Tender Notification**
**(Through kpp Portal Only)**

According to Karnataka Transparency in public procurement act 1999 and Rules 2000, the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports is inviting tender for the Procurement of Pillow, Bed, Cotton Blanket, Cotton Bed spread & Pillow Cover, Single Cot and Mosquito Net to Sports Hostels across Karnataka.

| Sl. No. | Particulars | Tender Amount (in Rs) | EMD amount (in Rs) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Procurement of Pillow, Bed, Cotton Blanket, Cotton Bed spread & Pillow Cover, Single Cot and Mosquito Net to Sports Hostels across Karnataka | 1,39,72,025.50 | 2,09,580/- |

The Tender should be submitted through kpp Portal (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). Vendors need to register in the kpp Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the kpp Portal.

1) Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender Documents through kpp Portal : Date: 31.12.2025 time 16.00 Hours
2) Opening of Technical Bid: Date: 01.01.2026 time 16.30 Hrs

Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin) and
(Tender Inviting Authority)
DIPR/CP/4547/AKAR/2025-26 Dept. of Youth Empowerment and Sports



**Bengaluru North City Corporation**
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, BNCC, Zone-2, 2nd Floor BNCC (Old BBMP) Building, Opp. to Indira Canteen, JC Nagar Main Road, Munireddy Palya, Bengaluru-560 006.

No. BNCC-Z2/EE/HBL/PR/03/2025-26 Date: 19.12.2025

**SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION**
(Through GOK KPP Portal only)
**website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

The Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, BNCC, Bengaluru invites item rate tenders from eligible Tenderers registered in GBA-Bengaluru North City Corporation or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/ MES or any State Government Organizations for the works mentioned below.

| Sl. No. | Name of the work | Est. Cost (₹ in Lakhs) | EMD (in thousands) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Comprehensive Development to Asphalt Roads Drains at 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th Cross, CIL Layout and Surrounding areas and Improvements to CC Roads and Drains at Yagappa Layout and Surrounding areas in Ward No.64, Vishwanatha Nagenahalli. | 300.00 | Rs.4,50,000/- (1.00 lakh through e-payment (NEFT) balance Rs. 3,50,000/- through BG/FDR, BG/FDR should be submit before opening of Technical bid) |
| 2. | Comprehensive Development to Improvement to Roads and Drains at Ganagangar Extension HGH Layout, MLA Layout and Surrounding Areas in Ward No.67, Ganganagar. | 300.00 | Rs.4,50,000/- (1.00 lakh through e-payment (NEFT) balance Rs. 3,50,000/- through BG/FDR, BG/FDR should be submit before opening of Technical bid) |

**Calendar of Events: (1)** Tender documents can be downloaded through E-Portal from : **22.12.2025. (2)** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **31.12.2025 at 3:00 p.m. (3)** Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals is **12.01.2026 up to 4:00 p.m. (4)** Date of Opening of Technical bid is **13.01.2026 after 4:30 p.m. (5)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid is after approval of Technical Bid.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer, Hebbal Division, Zone-2, BNCC**



**Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences and Organ Transplant**
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka) (Reg.No.DRB-2/SOR/54/2017-18)
Old School of Nursing Building, Victoria Hospital Campus, Bengaluru-02 Ph:080-26707727 e-Mail: **igotinstitute@gmail.com**

No: IGOT/TND/EQP/05/2025-26 Date: 20.12.2025

**ABSTRACT E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT PORTAL)**

Tender Inviting Authority of Institute of Gastroenterology Sciences and Organ Transplant, invites e-Tender for the following Drugs, Equipments and Services from the eligible tenderers through e-Procurement portal (Two Cover System) of Government of Karnataka.

| Sl. No. | Tender No. | Description | Tender can be downloaded from | Last Date of Submission of Tender | Date of Pre-Bid | Date of Technical Bid Open |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | IGOT/TND/BMD/23/2025-2026 | BMD AND BODY FAT ANALYZER | 22.12.2025, 5.30 P.M Onwards | 06.01.2026 at 4.00 P.M | 29.12.2025 at 11.30 A.M | 08.01.2026 at 11.30 A.M |
| 2 | IGOT/TND/DVT/24/2025-2026 | DVT MACHINE | | | | |
| 3 | IGOT/TND/CAPENDO/34/2025-2026 | CAPSULE ENDOSCOPY SYSTEM | | | | |
| 4 | IGOT/TND/AVU/26/2025-2026 | ADVANCED VACUUM UNIT | | | | |
| 5 | IGOT/TND/LWS/27/2025-2026 | LIVER WORK STATION WITH APC | | | | |
| 6 | IGOT/TND/MIG/28/2025-2026 | MICROWAVE ABLATION SYSTEM | | | | |
| 7 | IGOT/TND/MPM /29/2025-2026 | MULTIPARA PATIENT MONITOR | | | | |
| 8 | IGOT/TND/PACS /30/2025-2026 | PICTURE ARCHIVING AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM (PACS) | | | | |
| 9 | IGOT/TND/TEG /31/2025-2026 | TEG MACHINE | | | | |
| 10 | IGOT/TND/VENT/32/2025-2026 | VENTILATOR T | | | | |
| 11 | IGOT/TND/TMT/33/2025-2026 | TMT MACHINE | | | | |
| 12 | IGOT/TND/FIB/25/2025-2026 | HIGH END FIBROSCAN | 22.12.2025, 5.30 P.M Onwards | 21.01.2026 at 4.00 P.M | 29.12.2025 at 11.30 A.M | 23.01.2026 at 11.30 A.M |

The tenderers should submit tenders through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Any further amendments can be seen in the e-Portal only.

**Sd/- Chairman, Tender Inviting Committee, IGOT, Bengaluru-02.**

# Jalahalli and Kanteerava underpasses inch towards revival

During the ongoing Winter Session, Deputy Chief Minister said he would hold a meeting with all stakeholders, including Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok, to resolve the issues and commence work

**Chetan B.C.**
**K.V. Aditya Bhardwaj**
BENGALURU

Six years have passed since the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) planned an underpass at Jalahalli Cross in north Bengaluru, but the project has remained stalled due to land acquisition and compensation issues. Similarly, the underpass project at Kanteerava Studio Junction had been stalled for the past nine years. However, fresh hope has emerged for both projects.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also holds the Bengaluru Development portfolio, offered a brief update on the Jalahalli underpass during the ongoing Winter Session of the Legislative Assembly, raising hopes. Meanwhile,

Underpass work under way at Peenya in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

the Bangalore Development Authority has resumed work at the Kanteerava Studio Junction.

**Jalahalli underpass**

Jalahalli Cross is an intersection that connects two major highways—Bengaluru-Mangaluru and Tumakuru—and is one of the city's most notorious traffic bottlenecks. The junction serves as a boarding point for several private interdistrict buses as well as KSRTC buses.

Thousands of commuters from Tumakuru and other nearby districts access this junction for their daily commute to work in Bengaluru. With thousands of buses, mini trucks, and heavy vehicles using this stretch daily, traffic congestion at the junction is perpetual.

A traffic police officer deputed at the junction told *The Hindu* that at least eight officers are deployed to manage traffic, which is still insufficient.

Adding to the problem, one half of the junction falls under the Dasarahalli Assembly constituency, while the other half comes under the Rajarajeshwari Nagar constituency.

**Citizens struggle**

The owner of a medical store at the junction, who wished to remain anonymous, told *The Hindu* that even the development of the junction has been stalled ever since the project was announced. "Every time we approach the civic body with problems, they dismiss our pleas, saying the area does not fall under their jurisdiction. If we go to another ward office, they say the same thing," he said.

According to shopkeepers, the biggest achievement of civic officials has been the asphalting of Jalahalli Road last month.

However, the infrastructure at the junction is in total shambles. Footpaths along the stretch are broken, drains have been left open, and some areas have turned into waste dumping yards.

In a ray of hope, while responding to a question by Muniraju, MLA for Dasarahalli, in the ongoing Winter Session, Mr. Shivakumar said he would soon hold a meeting with all stakeholders, including Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok, to resolve the issues and commence work.

"A total compensation of ₹139 crore has been allocated for landowners. We have compensated 48 property owners with ₹85 crore, while the remaining ₹53 crore still needs to be paid," Mr. Shivakumar said. He urged MLA Muniraju to speak to the remaining property owners.

The delay, however, was due to most property owners refusing to accept Transferable Development Rights (TDR) as compensation, forcing the civic body to opt for other payments.

**Kanteerava underpass**

The underpass at Kanteerava Studio junction on Outer Ring Road (ORR) was half done and abandoned for years now, stuck due to land acquisition issues. Finally, there seems to be some hope as the BDA has recently begun digging work at the other end of the underpass.

Work began on the flyover and underpass at the junction in 2016, as part of a project to make the ORR signal-free. While the flyover was completed in 2019, work on the underpass got stuck. BDA, executing the project, dug the underpass from the Peenya side towards Mahalakshmi Layout. Last week digging began at the Mahalakshmi Layout end.

However, not all hurdles have been cleared yet. The project needs around 20,000 sq. m of land in 43 private properties. "Of the 43 properties, we have settled with all but 12. Even among these 12, 11 have agreed to our compensation package, and lands are being secured. But one property owner is still litigating in the court. The case is drawing to a close. We hope to secure the land soon. We are working towards a mid-2026 deadline to complete the project and hand it over to the corporation," said a senior BDA official.

*(This is the last of a multi-part series)*

# Glanders outbreak: Movement of horses banned near turf club

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

In an effort to curb the spread of glanders, a highly infectious disease affecting equine animals, the Bengaluru Urban District administration has enforced stringent restrictions around the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC).

Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner (DC) G. Jagadeesha on Thursday issued a preventive order prohibiting the movement of horses, donkeys, and mules within a two-km radius of the Turf Club following the detection of confirmed cases.

The measures have been introduced to prevent further transmission of the disease and to protect both animal welfare and public health in the city, according to the order.

The measures have been introduced to prevent further transmission of the disease and to protect both animal welfare and public health in the city, according to DC's order. K. MURALI KUMAR

Two horses stationed at BTC have tested positive for the disease.

Citing the seriousness of the outbreak, the District Commissioner said the Bangalore Turf Club has been officially notified as the epicentre of the infection under the provisions of the Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases Act.

Mr. Jagadeesha, who also serves as the chairperson of the District Livestock Disease Management Committee, said "immediate containment steps were necessary given the contagious nature of Glanders".

Under the order, the movement of equine animals for all purposes, including recreational activities, religious ceremonies, public processions and other events has been strictly prohibited within the notified zone until further instructions are issued.

Mr. Jagadeesha said that Glanders spreads rapidly among equine animals and poses serious risks if left unchecked.

Meanwhile, BTC has decided to cancel the remaining races of the ongoing Bangalore Winter Meeting of 2025-26.

# 101 mobiles, 84 SIM cards seized in prisons across State in last 20 days

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

In over 20 days, the Karnataka Prisons and Correctional Services department seized 101 mobile phones in different prisons across the State, according to an official statement.

The officials said that 23 chargers, 84 SIM cards, 16 earphones, ₹64,880 in cash, and 18 sharp objects were seized.

In a big haul at Parappana Agrahara Central Prison, officials seized 30 mobile phones during a late-night operation on Thursday, Director General of Police Alok Kumar said.

He praised the team led by Chief Superintendent of Central Prison Anshu Kumar and Jailer Shivakumar for the operation and announced a ₹30,000 reward.

In a post on X, Mr. Kumar said similar seizures were made in other prisons across the State, including Kalaburagi, where 10 mobile phones were recovered, Mangaluru (six), Ballari (four), and Shivamogga (three), in a span of two days. The searches led to the recovery of eight SIM cards, he mentioned.

The seizures follow Mr. Kumar's inspection of the Bengaluru Central Prison earlier this week, his first since assuming office. He said he was committed to addressing long-standing issues at the prison.

Mr. Kumar revealed that a 15-day deadline has been given to officers to plug gaps in the system. He warned that stringent action would be taken if any violations are detected after this period. He said that there was a need to get to the root of the problem and understand the network through which mobile phones are being smuggled into prisons.

# A call for consistency, originality and telling rooted stories

**Nalme Nachiyar**
BENGALURU

Bengaluru's movie buffs braved the biting cold to gather for an evening of free-flowing conversation on films of the year at the Kannada Cinema Roundtable at Mannheim Craft Brewery, Whitefield, on Friday.

The event was held as part of *The Hindu*'s Lit for Life Unplugged, a precursor to the Lit for Life happening on January 17 & 18, 2026, in Chennai.

The star-studded panel included debutant directors Punit Rangaswamy and J.P. Thuminad, actor Chaithra J. Achar, actor-writer Shaneel Gautham, film critic Kairam Vaashi, and the head of Content at Zee5 Pradeepa.

Director Punit Rangawamy, actor Chaithra J. Achar, writer-actor Shaneel Gautham, Director J.P. Thuminad, film critic Kairam Vaashi, and head of content at Kannada Zee5 Pradeepa at The Hindu Lit For Life Unplugged event at Mannheim Craft Brewery, Whitefield in Bengaluru on Friday. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

KANNADA CINEMA ROUNDTABLE 2025

**Of language and more**

Speaking about his maiden directorial, *Su from So*, a small-budget film which became the talk of 2025, Thuminad said, "I knew the Mangaluru audience would watch this comedy. But as we kept travelling with the film across the State, the paid premieres grew from 4 to 34. That's when we realised, non-native speakers watch films unmindful of which regional language and dialect they are made in. Similarly, audience watched *Su from So* as a Kannada movie, and not a movie from coastal Karnataka".

Punit Rangaswamy, who made his breakthrough with *Elumale*, highlighted the need to get audiences used to watching non-star movies in the theatres. "We are the ones who have disconnected audience from cinema, and it is only good cinema that can bring them back. We can't blame the audience for not coming, neither must we beg them to come to the theatres."

Actor Shaneel Gautum, who also co-wrote *Kantara Chapter-1*, spoke of treating the film independent of the *Kantara*. "Rishab had that clarity. A miracle happened in the first part. So the second one had to entertain. We wanted to tell the origin story of Tulu Naadu."

Not restricting herself to a language or industry and accepting every opportunity that comes her way is the mantra for actor Chaithra, who made her Tamil debut with *3BHK* this year. "I think in Kannada. So wherever else I go is my *karmabhoomi*".

**OTT content**

Reflecting on whether OTT content could suffer in quality if series are treated as an extension of daily soaps for a TV-watching audience, Pradeep said, "Our primary strategy is to convert 10-20% of those viewers into subscribers because that's where the revenue lies. The programming is also data-driven, and that enables us to strategise which audience to target with which project. We can't compare with Netflix and Amazon, and must understand the kind of investments being made". The speakers agreed that consistency and rooted storytelling are key to lifting Kannada films from the slump that they tend to get into after a good run every year.

While film critic Kairam Vaashi pinned his hopes on debutant directors relying on originality to bring the audience back to the theatres, Shaneel added that the new generation of filmmakers is aware of the need to stick to their roots. "By building a relatable world, at least a few filmmakers are trying to address that disconnect with people," he said.

*The event is presented by the all-new Kia Seltos in association with CHRIST (Deemed to be University) and NITTE Meenakshi Institute of Technology. The bookstore partner is Crossword.*

एन बी सी सी NBCC
A Navratna CPSE
ASPIRE

HON'BLE SUPREME COURT MONITORED HOUSING PROJECTS THROUGH LD. COURT RECEIVER

Executed by NBCC (India) Limited

Bulk Sale of inventory through e-Auction

Aspire Silicon City
Ph-IV, Sec-76, Noida, UP
Inventory-3BHK & 4BHK spacious apartments with modern amenities.
Near Spectrum Mall, Noida. Nearest Metro Stations are Noida Sec-50 (Aqua Line) & Sec-76 Metro, and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway Station - 25 min.

Aspire Leisure Park
Techzone-IV, Greater Noida (W), UP
Inventory-3BHK & 4BHK spacious apartments with modern amenities.
Near D-Mart and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway Station - 30 min.

Aspire Leisure Valley
Techzone-IV, Greater Noida (W), UP
Inventory-3BHK & 4BHK spacious apartments with modern amenities.
Near D-Mart and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway Station - 35 min.

Aspire Centurian Park
Techzone-IV, Greater Noida (W), UP
Inventory-3BHK & 4BHK spacious apartments with modern amenities.
Near D-Mart and Anand Vihar ISBT & Railway Station - 30 min.

Last date of submission of EMD: 27.12.2025
E-auction will be held on: 29.12.2025
EMD Rs.9.70 Cr. to Rs. 20.90 Cr.
7 Packages Ranging from Rs. 485 Cr. to Rs. 1,045 Cr.

For more details, please visit our website:
www.nbccindia.in | www.receiveramrapali.in
Or Call: 9772907414

Please scan this QR for e-auction document

A BG-BGE

# Check-up finds 5.77L govt. school, PU students in State have hypertension

Officials caution to not read these as confirmed cases but as those that need further attention and evaluation

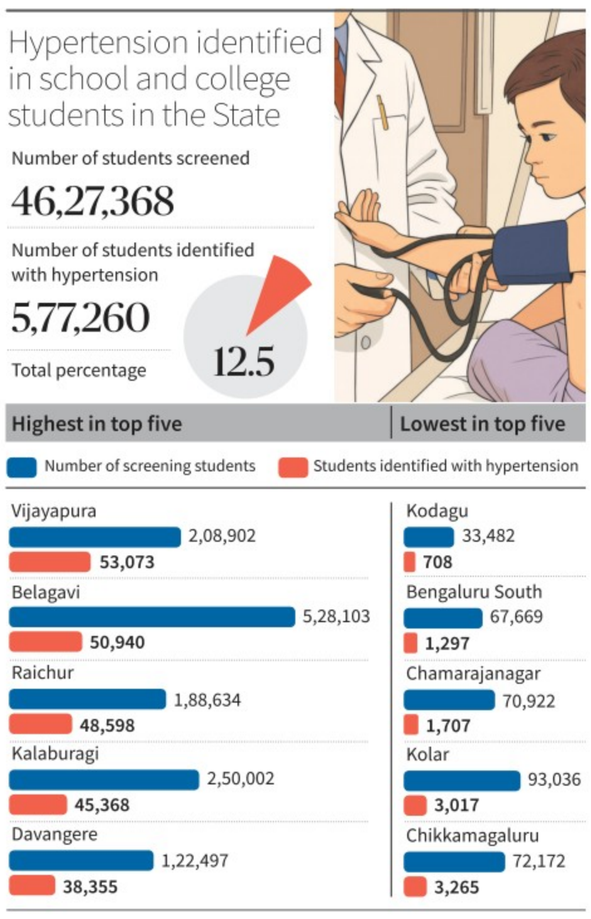
**Jayanth R.**
BENGALURU

Around 12.5% of government and aided school and Pre-University College (PUC) students in Karnataka were found to have hypertension in a health check-up conducted for the academic year 2025-26, under Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK).

The Department of Health and Family Welfare conducted check-up on 46,27,368 students (from Class I to II PUC), between April and November. Out of them, 5,77,260 students were found to have hypertension.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao provided this data replying to a question raised by member Thippanappa Kamakanura in the Legislative Council.

According to the department's statistics, in sheer numbers, the highest number of students were found to be suffering from hypertension in Vijayapura district. Out of 2,08,902 students screened, 53,073 were found to have hypertension. In Belagavi, out of 5,28,103 students screened, 50,940 students were found to have hypertension. Hypertension was found in 48,598 students in Raichur district, 45,368 in Kalaburagi, 38,355 in Davangere, 35,952 in Tumakuru and 33,345 in Mandya district.




In terms of percentage, it was highest in Davangere district, where 31.3% of students screened had hypertension. Of 1,22,497 students screened in this district, 38,355 students were found to have the problem. Hypertension was found in 29.9% of students in Mandya district, 25.8% in Raichur, 25.4% in Vijayapura, 18.1% in Kalaburagi, and 18% in Bagalkot district.

Meanwhile, the least number of students were found to be suffering from hypertension in Bengaluru South district (earlier Ramanagara). Of 67,669 students screened in this district, 1,297 (1.9%) students were found to have the problem.

However, officials involved in the work cautioned that these should not be read as confirmed cases. "Even in students, blood pressure (BP) changes due to various reasons. BP is quite a subjective matter. Unless we screen three or four times, we cannot confirm it. After screening three or four times, this number may come down. So, we pass the cases to treating doctors," a senior official of the RBSK told *The Hindu*.

### Methodology issues

Dr. C.N. Manjunath, cardiologist and former director of Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research, now a Member of Parliament, pointed to the problems in methodology adopted to measure hypertension in children. "When it is more than 140/90, it is called as high blood pressure in adults, but there is no such cut off for children," he said, adding that stress of study, childhood obesity and other factors could be triggers. "If there is a strong family history of hypertension, their children may have BP at an early age," he said, pointing out that 95% of blood pressure is unexplained. "So these children should be checked for endocrine, thyroid, kidney and other problems."

Dr. Rajath Athreya, cluster head and senior consultant paediatrician and neonatologist in a private hospital in Bengaluru, said, "We are identifying, especially in some risk groups, children having hypertension. Children with obesity have a higher chance of hypertension and early diabetes".

Consumption of ultra-processed, high-sugar and high-salt diet is an important factor, he explained.

Dr. Athreya called it an important study while underlining the need for further evaluation.

"We have to increase awareness both amongst doctors and parents," Dr. Athreya said.

# CM flags off 81 'Arogya Sethu' mobile health units

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah flagging off the 'Arogya Setu' Mobile Health Units at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi on Friday. P.K. BADIGER

**The Hindu Bureau**
BELAGAVI/BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday flagged off 81 'Arogya Sethu' Mobile Health Units (MHUs) aimed at delivering primary healthcare services to people living in remote, inaccessible, forest and hilly regions of Karnataka.

Launching the units in front of the grand steps of the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi, the Chief Minister said the initiative was intended to ensure that quality healthcare reaches citizens who have so far remained outside the formal health system.

The mobile units, rolled out under the theme "Healthcare at the remotest village", will provide doorstep healthcare services in hard-to-reach areas, including 32 Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST)-reserved constituencies. Of the total 81 units, 49 are being implemented under the National Health Mission (NHM), while 32 are funded through the State government's Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP/TSP) allocations.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said each mobile health unit will be staffed with an MBBS doctor, a nurse and a laboratory technician. The services offered will include outpatient consultations, basic diagnostic tests using rapid diagnostic kits, free medicines, referral services and community health monitoring. The units will also support the implementation of national and State health programmes in remote regions, the Minister said.

The MHUs will be implemented at the district level with decentralised monitoring and supervision, enabling flexibility based on local needs and geographical conditions.

Officials said the units would also be deployed during medical emergencies and disasters.

As per the operational plan, each unit will conduct medical camps in two to three villages a day on fixed schedules, with prior intimation to residents. The vehicles have been procured on an outsourcing basis, while human resources will be engaged on a contractual basis.

Officials said the operational cost has been pegged at ₹1.92 lakh per unit per month, with an annual expenditure of ₹1,686.24 lakh for all 81 units. Of the total, 41 vehicles have been allotted to the North Karnataka region.

Raichur has been allotted the highest number of mobile health units (eight), followed by Uttara Kannada (six), Kalaburagi and Dakshina Kannada (five each). Belagavi, Chamarajanagar, Kodagu, Mysuru, Udupi and Vijayanagara districts have been allotted four units each.

# KSRTC to operate 1,000 additional buses to clear Christmas rush

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has announced the operation of 1,000 additional buses during the Christmas festival to cater to the increased travel demand across the State and neighbouring regions. The special services will run in addition to the existing schedules on December 19, 20, and 24, ahead of Christmas celebrations on December 25.

According to KSRTC, return special services from various intra-State and inter-State destinations to Bengaluru will be operated on December 26 and 28 to facilitate the smooth return of passengers after the festival.

A release by KSRTC stated that exclusive special buses will be operated from Bengaluru's Kempegowda Bus Station to major religious, tourist, and commercial centres, including Dharmasthala, Kukke Subramanya, Shivamogga, Hassan, Mangaluru, Kundapura, Sringeri, Horanadu, Davangere, Hubballi, Dharwad, Belagavi, Vijayapura, Gokarna, Sirsi, Karwar, Raichur, Kalaburagi, Ballari, Koppala, Yadgir, Bidar, Tirupati, Vijayawada and Hyderabad, among others.

Similarly, special services from Mysuru Road Bus Station will operate exclusively towards Mysuru, Hunsur, Piriyapatna, Virajpet, Kushalanagar and Madikeri.

### Online reservation

"KSRTC has enabled advanced computerised reservations for all special buses. Tickets can be booked online through the KSRTC website as well as at reservation counters across Karnataka and other States," a release stated.

To encourage group travel, KSRTC is offering a 5% fare discount for four or more passengers booking on a single ticket, and a 10% discount on return journey tickets if onward and return tickets are booked together. "In addition, KSRTC will operate special buses from all taluk and district bus stands based on traffic requirements to ensure hassle-free travel during the festive season," release added.

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

**Canara Bank,**
**ARM Branch I**
2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001.

**SALE NOTICE**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provisio to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **13.01.2026 (10.30 AM to 11.00 AM),** for recovery of **Rs. 10,37,81,05,025.40/- as on 18.11.2025** with further interest and cost thereon due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank** from **1. Scotts Garments Limited,** A Company Incorporated under the Companies Act, Having Its **Registered office at :** 481-B, IV Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bangalore-560058. **Represented by its Managing Director : Mr. Naseer Ahmed. 2. Mr. Naseer Ahmed,** No, 391, 2nd Cross, 2nd Main, 2nd Stage, RMV Extension, Bengaluru - 560058. **3. Smt. Nuzhat Aisha Naseer,** W/o Sri. Naseer Ahmed No. 391, 2nd Cross, 2nd Main Road, 02nd Stage, RMV Extension, Bengaluru-560058. **4. Sri. Awaiz Ahmed,** S/o. Naseer Ahmed 69-8, Shobha Malachite, Bellary Road, Jakkur, Behind Ship School. **5. SCOTTS PLANTATIONS Pvt LMITED,** A Company Incorporated under the Companies Act Having Its **Registered office at :** 481-B, IV Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bangalore-560058. **Represented by its Authorized Signatory : Mr. Naseer Ahmed, 6. COPPERS COINS REALTY PVT LIMITED,** A Company Incorporated under the Companies Act Having Its **Registered office at :** 481-B, IV Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Bangalore-560058. **Represented By its Authorized Signatory, Mr. Awaiz Ahmed,** Bangalore-560 023.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s. PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT details online payment to Account No.209272434 (IFSC CNRB0002366) as mentioned on or before **12.01.2026, 5.00 pm.** **(Rs. in Crores)**

| Lot | Description of the immovable/ movable assets | Reserve Price | EMD | Incremental value Rs. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | (i). Industrial Land and Building at 481/A, IV Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Peenya, Sy No. 46, Nallakadaranahalli, Bangalore-560058. Land measuring 4,146 Sq.mtr (44,628 Sq.ft) with a total built up area of 1,65,000 Sq.ft. | 33.00 | 3.30 | 0.25 |
| 2 | (ii) Industrial Land and Building at 481/B, IV Phase, Peenya Industrial Area, Peenya, Sy No. 46, Nallakadaranahalli, Bangalore-560058. Land measuring 1874 Sq. mtr ( 20,172 Sq.ft) with a total built up area of 69,600 Sq.ft. | 15.50 | 1.55 | 0.25 |
| 3 | Industrial Land at Sy. No 60. Sultan Thippasandra village, Now Called Shaheenshanagar, Railway Parallel Road, Kolar Town, Kasaba Hobli, Kolar District - 563101. Land measuring 32 guntas or 34,848 sq.ft. | 5.49 | 0.55 | 0.25 |
| 4 | Industrial land and building at Sy. No. 30/1, 30/2 and 32/2 Sangodahalli village, Kondarajanahalli Panchayat, Chikkaballapura Road, Kasaba hobli, Kolar District - 563102. Land measuring 2 acre 29 guntas or 11,8701 Sq.ft. | 15.54 | 1.56 | 0.25 |

**Known encumbrances, if any:** Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in **Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com)** or may contact Senior Manager, **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No. 080 25310066, 9483544116 and 8508442767** during office hours on any working day.

**Date: 18.12.2025**
**Place: Bangalore**
**Sd/- Authorised Offier**
**Canara Bank**

**Timings**
**BENGALURU**

| | |
|---|---|
| **SATURDAY, DEC. 20** | |
| RISE | 06:36 SET 17:58 |
| RISE | 06:45 SET 18:11 |
| **SUNDAY, DEC. 21** | |
| RISE | 06:37 SET 17:59 |
| RISE | 07:37 SET 19:05 |
| **MONDAY, DEC. 22** | |
| RISE | 06:37 SET 17:59 |
| RISE | 08:25 SET 19:59 |

| Bengaluru Weather | max | min |
|---|---|---|
| Tumakuru | 29 | 20 |
| Mysuru | 29 | 15 |
| Bengaluru | 28 | 16 |

**Bengaluru Today**
**28°C** The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy.

**Bengaluru Tomorrow**
**28°C** Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to occur.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2025
All rights reserved.

# Canara Bank reduces repo linked lending rate by 25 bps

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

Following the Reserve Bank of India's decision to cut the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25% in the latest Monetary Policy Committee meeting, Canara Bank has reduced its Repo Linked Lending Rate from 8.25% to 8%.

The revised rate came into effect from December 12, 2025.

### Repo rate cut

A statement from the bank said the reduction directly reflects the RBI's repo rate cut and will benefit customers through lower EMIs and potentially shorter loan tenures, subject to loan terms and conditions.

# Man kicks, injures five-year-old playing on road in Thyagarajanagar

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The police have arrested a 35-year-old man for allegedly kicking a five-year-old boy who was playing on the road in Thyagarajanagar, in the southern part of the city, on December 14.

According to the police, the incident occurred around 1.10 p.m. when the child was playing on the road.

The accused kicked the child from behind allegedly without any provocation, causing minor head injuries and scratches.

### FIR registered

The child's parents filed a complaint based on which the police initially registered a non-cognisable report (NCR), which was later converted into an FIR under Section 115(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, which deals with voluntarily causing hurt.

The probe revealed that the accused has psychological issues. By then, a Bengaluru court had granted him bail.

An investigation officer told *The Hindu* that the accused suffered head injuries in a road accident that happened last month.

### Behaviour change

"After the incident, his parents said they noticed a change in his behaviour. He has now been admitted to a hospital in Tamil Nadu," the investigator said.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**

The office of Director State Transport-Cum-Managing Director, PUNBUS, 1st Floor, Jeeven Deep Building, Sector-17, Chandigarh hereby invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from leading and experienced National Level Indian Chassis Manufacturers (ICM)/Bus Manufacturer (BM) online as per detail EOI available at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in/** for submitting their "Technical Solution options" for Supply of Bus Chassis (**Minimum WB 5600 MM to 6000 MM**) with Front Mounted Diesel Engine, BS-VI, OBD-II, Type-II, 52+2 Seater and Bus Body Fabrication to deliver "Fully Built Passenger Bus" for PUNBUS and PRTC Under Form 22A. The schedule is as below:-

| | |
|---|---|
| Query submission date and time- | 23-12-2025 at 11.00 A.M |
| Query discussion meeting date and time - | 23-12-2025 at 11.00 A.M |
| Expression of Interest (EOI) download date and time - | 19-12-2025 at 02.00 P.M |
| Expression of Interest (EOI) submission date and time - | 08-01-2026 at 12.00 A.M |

-Sd-
1746/12/2025-26/6101 Managing Director, Punbus

**NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY**

**Inviting of E-Tender Notice**

मंडल रेल प्रबन्धक, इंजीनियरिंग, उत्तर पश्चिम रेलवे, जोधपुर द्वारा भारत के राष्ट्रपति के लिये एवं उनकी ओर से ई–निविदा के माध्यम से प्रचलित नियमो के अन्तर्गत निर्धारित प्रपत्रो में निविदा निम्न कार्यों के लिए क्रमानुसार आमंत्रित की जाती है– **ई– निविदा सूचना सं० 2025–26 :** 149 of 2025-26 **कार्य का नाम व स्थान :** Construction of Road under Bridge subway (1x6.0x4.0m) in lieu of manned LC No. 66 (Km411/0-1), LC No. 68 (Km 413/0-1) & LC No. 69 (km 414/1-2) and LC No. 70(Km 416/2-3), LC No. 71 (km 416/7-8) & LC No. 74(km422/5-6) on RTGH-DNA Section. **अनुमानित लागत रूपये :** 21,03,69,010.34 **बयाने की राशि रूपये:** 12,01,900.00 **ई– निविदा सूचना सं० 2025–26 :** 150 of 2025-26 **कार्य का नाम व स्थान :** Construction of Road under Bridge subway (1x4.50x4.0 m) in lieu of manned LC no. 75 (Km 489/9-10) & LC No. 76 (Km 591/1-2) on MTD-BKN Section. **अनुमानित लागत रूपये :** 7,05,78,448.00 **बयाने की राशि रूपये:** 5,02,900.00 निविदा सूचना संख्या 149of2025-26 (निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि **06.01.2026** को 15:00 बजे), 150of 2025-26 (निविदा प्रस्तुत करने की तिथि **07.01.2026** को 15:00 बजे) तक है। वेबसाइट का विवरण जहाँ पर ई–निविदा देखी व भरी जा सकती है – **www.ireps.gov.in** **1635-DR/25**

Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Mrs.Mubasheera w/o Nayaz Pasha** to bring the notice of the general public that following Two Original registered deeds as : **1.** Absolute Sale deed doc.No.2562/1998-99 of Book-I, Volum-2562, Page No.34-37, and **2.**Gift deed doc.No.DNH-1-05212/2021-22 of Book-I, Stored in CD No.DNHD1365, dated. 28.09.2021, both are registered in the office of the sub-registrar Devanahalli, are missing / lost/ misplaced in respect of schedule property. If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

**SCHEDULE PROPERTY**

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Assessment **No.407,** E-Katha No.10-4-166, Situated at **Mandibele Street in Islamnagar, Vijayapura Town, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural Dist,** 3rd Division Srinagar Ward No.9, measuring East to West : **9.1435538 mtrs** and North to South : **6.09570 mtrs,** in all measuring **55.7413601 Sq.Mtrs** with RCC Roofed building thereon and bounded by

**East by : Property of Shahin Taz, West by : Property of Ameer, North by : Private Property, South by : Road.**

**H. Prahlada,** Advocate & Solicitor,
**For H.P.Law,** #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

**GAURIBID ANUR BRANCH**
NVR Complex, Opposite to Indian Oil Petrol Pump, BH Road, Gauribidanur , Chikkaballapur (District) - 561208

SALE NO TICE FOR SALE OF MO VABLE & IMMO VABLE PR OPER TIES **"APPENDIX- II-A & IV-A [SEE PROVISO TO RULE 6 (2) & 8 (6)]**

**E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.**

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower, Mortgagor (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is",** and **"Whatever there is"** basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower(s)/Mortgagor (s)/ Guarantor (s) /Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -

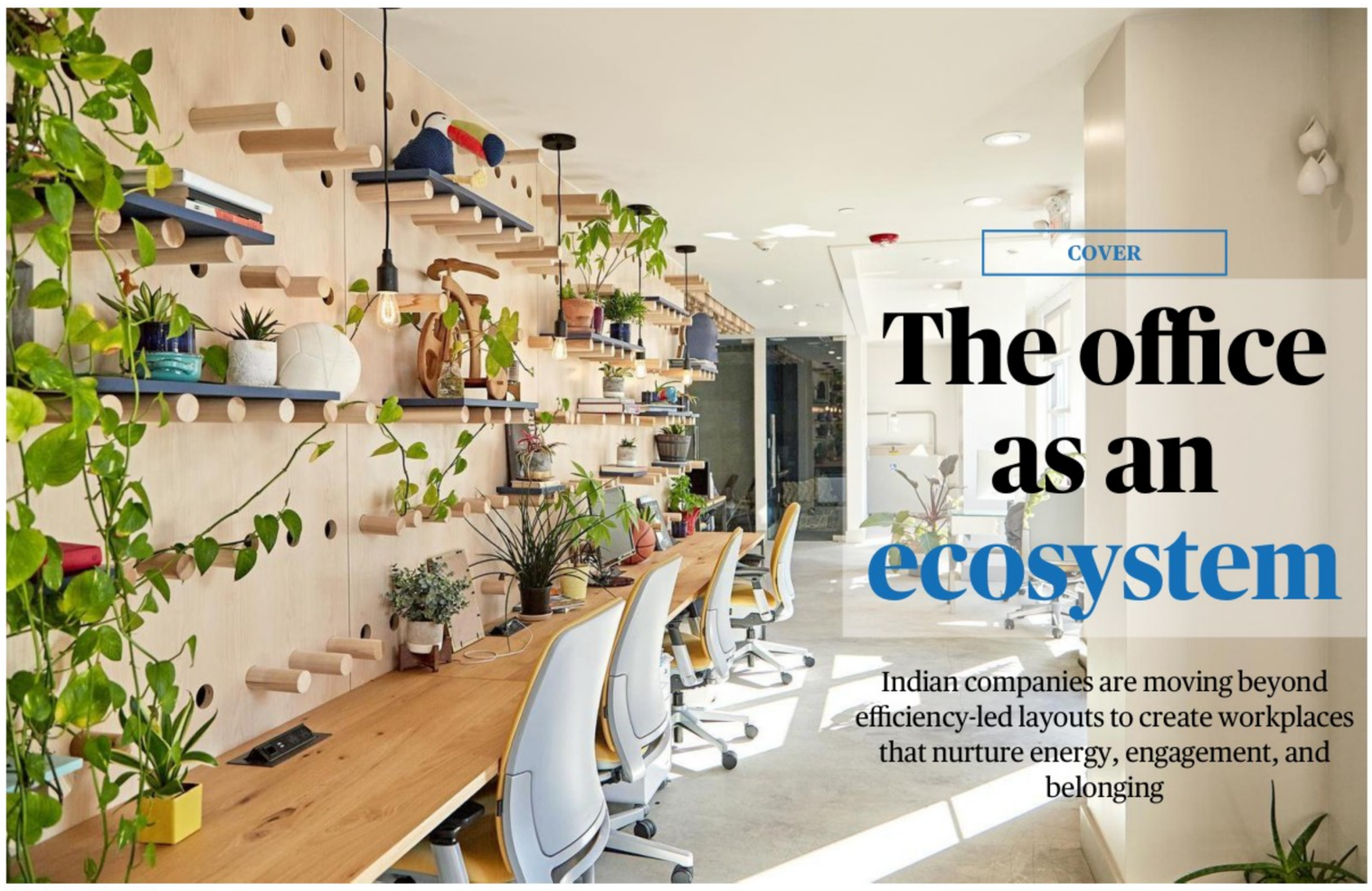
| Sr /Lot No. | Name & address of Borrower/s, Mortgagor/s and Guarantor/s | Detailed description of the immovable/moveable property with known Encumbrances, if any | Total Dues. | Date & Time of E-auction | Reserve Price, EMD, Last Date of EMD Amount and Bid Increase Amount | Status of Possession (Constructive /Physical) | Property Inspection date &Time |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. 2. 3. | **1.M/s. Sampaiah Service Station** having registered address at Plot No.69, Sy No.30 part Gowribidanur 2nd phase industrial area, Kudumalakunte village, Gauribidanur Taluk Chikballapur Dist-561208 **Represented by Its Proprietor Mr.Chethan S/o Chikkaiah** having residence address # 1235, 10th main 15th AA Cross, KHB Suryanarayana Phase-I Chandapura post, Anekal taluk, Bengaluru-560081. **2. Mrs.Susheela W/o.Chikkaiah** , having residence address at #1235, 10th main LIG-A, 15th AA Cross, KHB Suryanarayana Phase-I, Chandapura post, Anekal taluk, Bengaluru-560081. **3. S Kiran Kumar** having residence address at No.65, Bettahalli, Kadabagere post, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangaluru Urban-562130 | **(Owner/Mortgagor name: Mrs.Susheela W/o. Chikkaiah)** All that part and parcel of the Residential House property situated at No.1235 LIG II Developed by the Karnataka housing board in development known as "Suryanagara" and situated at Iggaluru-Banahillu Villages of Anekal taluk Bangaluru Urban dist admeasuring East to west 12.00 Mtrs and North to south 9.00 Mtrs in all measuring 108.00 sq mtrs in the name of **Mrs. Susheela W/o.Chikkaiah, Bounded by:** East: Layout Road, West: House no 1252 LIG Type B, North: House no 1234 LIG Type A, South: House no 1236 LIG Type A. | **Rs.1,76,95,743 (Rupees One Crore Seventy Six Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Seven Hundred Fourty Three Only)** Plus further interest w.e.f. from **03-07-2025** thereon at the contractual rate plus costs, charges and expenses till date of payment | **21/01/2026 From 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM** | **Reserve Price: Rs. 91,59,000/- EMD: Rs. 9,15,900/- Last Date and Time of Receipt of EMD Amount: 20/01/2026 upto 5.00 Pm Bid Increment Amount: Rs.25,000/-** | **Symbolic Possession** | **With Prior Appointment from Authorized Officer** |

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link **https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction** and online auction portal **https://baanknet.com.** For queries cont act Number: 8291220220 & email ID. support.baanknet@p sballiance.com. Also, prospective bidders may cont act the Authorised of ficer on **Tel No. 081 36245779, Mobile: 9632121208**

**Date: 12-12-2025, Place: Bengaluru** **Authorised Officer, Bank of Baroda**

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

PROPERTYPLUS
HOMES AND REAL ESTATE NEWS
thehindu.com/features/homes-and-gardens
THE HINDU



COVER

# The office as an ecosystem

Indian companies are moving beyond efficiency-led layouts to create workplaces that nurture energy, engagement, and belonging

GETTY IMAGES/ ISTOCK

François Gramoli

The conversation around employee well-being has finally moved from the periphery to the very centre of business thinking. Across India Inc., we're seeing a quiet but powerful transformation in how leaders view their offices, which are no longer static enclosures for work, but ecosystems that influence how people think, feel, and connect. The workplace today has evolved into a critical tool for engagement, collaboration, creativity, and belonging. It has become a tangible expression of a company's culture and care for its people.

For too long, the office space was planned around efficiency, how many people could fit into a defined surface area, how space could be standardised, and how costs could be contained. That lens has shifted dramatically. Today, with the Return-To-Office mandate from many companies, a great workplace is seen as an investment in human vitality, a way to keep employees healthy and engaged while returning to the office.

It is not only about visual appeal but about how every detail, from light and material to temperature and texture, contributes to how employees experience their day. We are designing not for occupancy, but for energy and well-being.

## Flow and connect

A wellness-centric approach to design asks us to think intentionally about every spatial and sensory decision. It starts with light, the rhythm of natural daylight that regulates our mood and alertness, reminding the body of its natural cycle. It extends to the integration of nature, or biophilia, which has moved far beyond the trend of placing plants in corners. It is about creating a subtle dialogue between the indoors and outdoors, through organic textures, materials that breathe, some that even absorb CO2, and a visual connection to natural elements that calm the mind and stimulate creativity.

Acoustics, too, are an often-overlooked dimension of wellness. The modern workplace can easily become overstimulating, and noise is one of the greatest hidden stressors. Designing for acoustic comfort, with materials that absorb rather than reflect sound, and spaces that offer both collaboration and quiet, is essential to enabling focus and mental clarity. The same thought extends to movement. A healthy workspace is not confined; it encourages flow. From social zones to the ergonomics of furniture, design can gently nudge people to move more, connect more, and sit less.

Today, we see a much wider variety of workspaces within the same office, such as focus pods, sit-stand desks, one or two pax booths, high collab tables, and so forth.

Equally important is creating moments of pause. True wellness in design is about balance, the interplay between stimulation and restoration. High-energy collaborative areas must coexist with contemplative zones where people can recharge, reflect, or simply be still. These are the small but profound details that elevate a workplace from functional to nurturing.

## Wellness systems

What is interesting is that wellness-led design is no longer a luxury reserved for global headquarters or marquee offices. With the rise of flexible workspace providers and design & build solutions, it is now possible to embed these principles across a company's entire footprint. Flexible workspace partners are not just providing real estate; they are co-creating environments that align with an organisation's wellness and sustainability goals. By leveraging deep expertise in sustainable and healthy materials, integrating cutting-edge technology-enabled wellness systems (like air quality monitoring and smart HVAC systems), and applying globally recognised standards (such as WELL Building principles), space providers drastically cut down the design-to-delivery timeline.

Ultimately, wellness in design is not about following a global trend; it is about creating environments that enable people to perform their best, feel their best, and live their best. The office, when designed with intention and empathy, becomes much more than a place of work; it becomes a source of energy. For India Inc., this is the new frontier of differentiation: spaces that don't just house teams but truly sustain them. The future of work will belong to organisations that understand this simple truth: that every great design begins and ends with people.

*The writer is global senior director and design at Awfis Space Solutions Limited.*

## REAL ESTATE

### BUYING

#### COMMERCIAL LAND

**WANTED 1** Acre to 100 Acres Land . Contact :87548 09650

#### RESIDENTIAL FLAT – RESALE

**4BHK (NR** Chennai Marina Mall) 3.5B, 2CCP https://bit.ly/4BHK–OMR WhatsApp:9042216880

### GENERAL

### SELLING

#### FARMHOUSE / LAND /RESORTS

✔ **600 ACRES** Solar/ Agri Land Sale Nr.Tirunelveli. 9003788001, 8148212390

#### RESIDENTIAL FLAT – NEW

**BESANT NAGAR** 1) 2600Sft 4BHK & 470Sft Pvt Terrace 7.70C. 2) 3100Sft 4BHK 8.35C Incl Reg. Ct: 9710424456

## RENTAL

### RENTAL – COMMERCIAL

**TOLET GROUND** floor 400 sq.ft , 1st floor 1200 sq.ft , Rcc bldg 10 HP power available Muddanapalya Main Road 7th Block Vishveshwaraiah Extn Layout Behind Kaasi Medicals Parallel to Mn Road. 7975755891 / 9449772240

### RENTAL – GENERAL

**HULIMAVU– NOBO** Nagar 2BHK Flat 1250 sft Off Bannerghatta Road , Dodda Kammanahalli Main Road, Near Narayana School. Lift, Car Park. Rent 23000/– Ct : 98450 41161 , 99412 77086

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/ company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

2, 3 & 4-BHK APARTMENTS FOR SALE IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/280222/004739 G+3<br>CHANDAPURA<br>10 MINS. ELECTRONIC CITY<br>₹ 60.30 - 98.70 Lakhs*<br>8880 003 003 | PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/151223/006489 G+3<br>BANASHANKARI<br>OPP. NPS SCHOOL (3 & 4-BHK)<br>₹ 1.45 - 2.17 Cr*<br>8880 461 461 | PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006972 G+4<br>HOSA ROAD METRO<br>NEAR ELECTRONIC CITY<br>₹ 67.92 L - 1.34 Cr*<br>8880 013 310 | PRM/KA/RERA/1250/301/PR/251024/007178 G+14<br>YELAHANKA<br>5 MINS. RAJANUKUNTE<br>₹ 54.85 - 97.21 Lakhs*<br>8880 465 465 | PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/210324/006724 G+14<br>SILKBOARD<br>NEAR SINGASANDRA METRO STN.<br>₹ 87.62 L - 1.31 Cr*<br>8880 013 310 | PRM/KA/RERA/1250/304/PR/251024/007179 G+14<br>WHITEFIELD<br>10 MINS. HOPE FARM METRO STN.<br>₹ 77.91 L - 1.32 Cr*<br>8880 461 461 |
| PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/281125/008287 G+14<br>JIGANI<br>5 MINS. APC CIRCLE<br>₹ 58.45 - 92.06 Lakhs*<br>8880 003 003 | PRM/KA/RERA/1250/304/PR/150224/006622 G+14<br>WHITEFIELD<br>SOUKYA ROAD<br>₹ 70.65 L - 1.06 Cr*<br>8880 461 461 | PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/160824/006973 G+14<br>BANNERGHATTA RD.<br>NEAR KOPPA GATE<br>₹ 62.42 - 82.18 Lakhs*<br>8880 013 310 | PRM/KA/RERA/1251/308/PR/290122/004660 G+4<br>SARJAPURA<br>SARJAPUR - ATTIBELE ROAD<br>₹ 63.60 - 83.25 Lakhs*<br>8880 003 003 | PRM/KA/RERA/1251/310/PR/150223/005721 G+14<br>MYSORE ROAD<br>NEAR CHALLAGHATTA METRO STN.<br>₹ 67.28 - 95.28 Lakhs*<br>8880 461 461 | Visit our website or talk to our advisors for the complete portfolio |

**Disclaimer:** Information provided in this advertisement is for reference only, and all data is sourced internally. The images, illustrations, and artist's impressions used in this advertisement are for representational purposes only. The prices mentioned are indicative and base prices. Any offers, discounts, or incentives mentioned in this advertisement are subject to specific terms and conditions. All taxes, registration charges, stamp duty, and any other statutory payments are applicable as per government regulations. All directions, locations, and landmarks are approximate. Please use reliable resources for accurate travel times. Mentioning a specific product, process, or service does not imply endorsement. Please contact our Sales Team for detailed information about specific projects, pricing, availability, and other inquiries. DS-MAX Properties ensures that all its projects comply with the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA) and its regulations. **Visit : www.rera.karnataka.gov.in**

*T & C Apply

BG-BGE

## From Page One

### Leadership tussle in government escalates

Prior to this, the Chief Minister had reiterated that they were "a high command party" and he would abide by whatever it decides.

"As per my feeling, the high command is in favour of me," he had said.

A few days ago, the Chief Minister had maintained that he would continue in the post "till the high command wants him".

Asked about this in Gokarna, where he was visitng a temple, Mr. Shivakumar said that Mr. Siddaramaiah and he had reached an agreement.

"The party high command has forged the agreement. Both of us will go as per that agreement."

On the Chief Minister's statement that there was no agreement, he said, "I have never said he won't be there for five years. I have also not said that high command was not in his favour. He is the Chief Minister because the high command is with him."

Asked if the Chief Minister would change, he said, "You people are discussing all this. We will go by the party directions."

## INBRIEF

### 'All promises implemented except the one made to DKS'

The BJP on Friday pulled Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's leg in the Assembly over the purported pact related to transfer of power to Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

When Mr. Siddaramaiah repeatedly asserted that his government had implemented most of the poll promises unlike the erstwhile BJP government, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok remarked, "You have implemented most of the promises, but what about the promise made to D.K. Shivakumar [on power sharing]."

The Chief Minister desisted from commenting on it immediately, but sometime later, he maintained that there was no pact or understanding on curtailing his term.

### Houses adjourned *sine die*

The Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council were adjourned *sine die* on Friday evening after a 10-day session here.

Submitting a report on the session, Speaker U.T. Khader said the Assembly had met for 57 hours and 35 minutes over 10 days since December 8. During the session, the Assembly discussed and adopted 23 Bills.

As many as 39 members of the House, he said, had discussed the issues concerning North Karnataka for over 17 hours. The government gave answers to 134 starred and 1,750 unstarred questions, the Speaker added.

### 'Milk incentive will be hiked'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday announced that the government would increase the incentive being given to milk producers from the present ₹5 a litre to ₹7 as listed in the Congress's pre-poll manifesto.

"We will increase the incentive to ₹7 soon," he said, without specifying any date while replying to the debate on North Karnataka in the Legislative Assembly. He said the government was paying an incentive of ₹5 crore per day.

He accused the erstwhile BJP government of keeping the incentive to the tune of ₹630 crore pending, and said his government had cleared the dues.

# I have never been politically weak, asserts Siddaramaiah

The Chief Minister on Thursday had a dinner meeting with some of his supporters in the home of Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi

**The Hindu Bureau**
BELAGAVI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday declared that he had never been politically weak, though he had faced physical weakness sometimes.

When leader of the Opposition R. Ashok remarked in the Legislative Assembly that the Chief Minister, who had recently been indisposed, was looking fresh and appeared to have overcome weakness – both physical and political – the Chief Minister remarked, "It is not possible for me to become politically weak. I have never faced political weakness earlier and I will not face it in future also. There are no circumstances that can cause political weakness. Of course, I do face physical weakness sometimes."

These statements were made in the context of the Chief Minister asserting that he would serve the full term as Chief Minister and there was no "pact" restricting his tenure to half of the five-year term.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah sharing a light moment with Ministers G. Parameshwara and Satish Jarkiholi during a dinner meeting in Belagavi on Thursday SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

**Philosophical note**

However, on a philosophical note, Chief Minister also said, "We can come to power only if the people bless us. People are the bosses in a democracy. Whatever may be our ideology, it is the people who decide on giving power."

The Chief Minister launched a counter-attack on the BJP by asking Mr. Ashok whether he was confident of continuing in his position for the full term. "B.S. Yediyurappa too used to say that he would complete full term of five years, but that did not happen," he reminded.

Interestingly, this assertion came a day after the Chief Minister and his confidants got together for dinner at the residence of Satish Jarkiholi, Minister and Congress leader. In attendance were Ministers H.C. Mahadevappa, G. Parameshwara and B.Z. Zameer Ahmed, Naseer Ahmed, MLC and political secretary to the Chief Minister, A.S. Ponnanna, MLA and legal adviser to the Chief Minister, and some other local leaders.

**Surprise guest**

The guest who surprised the media persons waiting at the front gates was M.C. Sudhakar, Minister who is believed to be a follower of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Sources close to Mr. Jarkiholi said the number of VIP guests did not cross a dozen. Mr. Jarkiholi, who arrived at the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha on Friday morning, dismissed speculation that the dinner meeting was a show of strength.

"It was a routine meeting with friends. Every day, we are having such dinners at my house, since the Winter Session started. There is nothing political here," he said.

Mr. Shivakumar, who had used Mr. Satish Jarkiholi's helicopter to fly to a temple near Gokarna in Uttara Kannada district, said that there was nothing wrong in Ministers and leaders having dinner together.

### 'We are actors, producers and directors'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BELAGAVI

Apparently referring the different functioning styles of the parties, the Chief Minister told the BJP members in the Assembly, "You [BJP] have someone to direct you on what to do. But there is no one to direct us. We [Congress leaders] are the directors, we are the producers and we are the actors too."

# Hate speech Bill passed in Council after over six hours of debate

**The Hindu Bureau**
BELAGAVI

After over six hours of debate, an adjournment and protest by the BJP in the Well of the House, The Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025, was passed by the Karnataka Legislative Council on Friday.

The debate on the Bill, which was earlier adopted by the Legislative Assembly, began at 10.40 a.m. on Friday with Home Minister G. Parameshwara explaining the objective of the Bill.

Dr. Parameshwara quoted the Supreme Court observation in Vishal Tiwari vs Union of India and others, which said, "Hate speech cannot be tolerated as it leads to loss of dignity and self-worth of the targeted group members, contributes to disharmony amongst groups, and erodes tolerance and open-mindedness." The Minister also placed some data on increasing cases of hate speech before the House emphasising the need for a new law.

The subsequent debate saw 23 members presenting their views. While the ruling party members made suggestions and welcomed the Bill, BJP members opposed it, with some demanding that it should be taken back. A few others demanded that it should be sent to the House committee for scrutiny.

The debate which started on a calm note with K.S. Naveen placing his objections, took on an aggressive pitch when C.T. Ravi made religious reference and took the name of Mahatma Gandhi and Basavanna in his argument to oppose the Bill. The tone angered the ruling party members, resulting in cacophony and adjournment for five minutes.

When the session resumed, several members joined Mr. Ravi in terming the Bill "draconian, and against the Constitution" and expressed apprehension about the State becoming "police raj." On the other hand ruling party members defended the need for the Bill.

Trouble again started while Dr. Parameshwara was replying to the debate. At one point, Opposition members took exception to Minister Priyank Kharge's comment on Union Home Minister Amit Shah and demanded that it be expunged from records. They also demanded Mr. Kharge's apology and rushed to the Well raising slogans.

Amid the ruckus, the House passed the Bill, even as a few Opposition members tore copies of the Bill and threw it in the air.

# 'Ready to face inquiry on land-grab charges'

**The Hindu Bureau**
BELAGAVI

Denying allegations of land-grab by his family, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda has volunteered to face any inquiry.

Making a statement in the Legislative Assembly here on Friday, Mr. Byre Gowda appealed to the Speaker to order a probe by a suitable agency after consulting Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Minister.

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy had alleged that the Revenue Minister grabbed government land at Garudanapalya in Kolar district.

**From Mysuru rulers**

The Minister said that the land originally belonged to Mysore rulers. His grandfather, Chowde Gowda, had got the land for a lease of 10 years from the trust in the name of Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar Trust in 1953. However, even as the lease was in effect, the original owners sold the land to Habeebulla Khan in 1959. Chowde Gowda questioned the sale of land and finally it was resolved through a compromise.

"Since 1953, our family has been in possession of 256 acres of land at Garudanapalya, a village that belonged to one family. The land consists of two tanks, which are intact. Not even an inch of tank is encroached upon. When I traced the land records, at one stage a portion of 20 acres of land had been mentioned as a tank, which is against the nature of the land and the survey records. And, we got the entire land through an absolute sale deed, and there was no question of encroaching on government land," he stated, adding his grandfather got the land before he was even born.

**Due to strict stance**

Further, he opined that the allegations against him may be due to his strict stance with regard to his department. "People who were affected by my action might be behind the allegations. However, let there be an inquiry by whichever agency, and I will accept the outcome," he said.

# Govt. has taken measures to stop crimes, maintain law and order: Parameshwara

**The Hindu Bureau**
BELAGAVI

Home Minister G. Parameshwara, on Friday, said that the Karnataka government had taken all measures to maintain law and order and officers had been told to intensify collecting crucial intelligence on possible incidents in advance and take appropriate steps.

In his written reply to the debate on the law and order status in the State in the Legislative Assembly, Dr. Parameshwara said officers had been told to deploy Hoysala vehicles for patrolling 24 hours and keep a watch on rowdy elements.

Besides, the police had been keeping a vigil on people who try to instigate violence using the social media platforms, the Minister said.

During the debate on the issue, leaders of the BJP had alleged corruption in the posting of police officers. Reacting to it, the Minister stated that the transfer of officers was being handled by the Police Establishment Board.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara speaking in the Legislative Council in Belagavi on Friday. P.K. BADIGER

Reacting to the allegation of prison inmates enjoying various facilities, Dr. Parameshwara said his department had taken measures to procure additional security instruments, CCTV cameras, and baggage scanners to be used in the prisons to stop unauthorised activities.

The department would set up a command centre at the Prison Department's head office in Bengaluru, from where the CCTV recordings of all the prisons in the State could be watched.

**Digital arrest cases**

The Minister said that since 2023, as many as 1,314 digital arrest cases had been reported in the State. The victims lost over ₹312 crore, the police recovered valuables worth over ₹24.86 crore, and the money returned to the victims was ₹18.33 crore.

The police had taken action against accounts active on Facebook, Telegram and other platforms, through which the accused cheated. As many as 268 Facebook accounts, 456 Telegram accounts, 15 Instagram accounts and 61 WhatsApp accounts have been deactivated.

The public, the Minister said, could register their complaints with regard to economic offences by calling the national helpline 1930 or visiting the NCRP portal.

On crimes against women and children, he said, compared to the previous years, the number of crimes had not increased this year.

He said, the E-beat system had been introduced across the State. The department had created 30 posts of additional SPs to prevent crimes and implemented door-to-door police programme.

# Govinda Rao panel report on regional imbalances will be implemented: CM

**The Hindu Bureau**
BELAGAVI

Stating that the government was committed to removing regional imbalances through development, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Friday declared that it would implement the report of M. Govinda Rao High Power Committee for Reddressal of Regional Imbalances which is expected to be submitted in January, 2026.

Siddaramaiah

**Debate on issues**

"Whatever may be the requirement of funds, we will implement the committee's recommendations fully," the Chief Minister told the Legislative Assembly while replying to a debate on issues related to development of North Karnataka.

Again accusing the Centre of coming in the way of development of North Karnataka by not giving clearances to prominent projects of the region, the Chief Minister also offered to lead a delegation of elected representatives from North Karnataka to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to seek justice in this regard.

The government would take measures to focus on taluks that would be identified by the Govinda Rao committee as backward, the Chief Minister said.

**Backward taluks**

He pointed out that earlier measures had been taken to provide funds to the tune of ₹31,000 crore over the period of eight years to 114 taluks that had been identified as most backward, more backward and backward taluks in the State.

However, the Govinda Rao committee had been formed later to know if regional imbalances still prevailed and the measures to be taken to tackle them, he noted.

The disparities in terms of development were clearly visible with about 10 districts of the total 31 in Karnataka, particularly those from the northern region, having a per capita income of less than ₹2 lakh as against the State's average per capita income of ₹3,39,813, Mr. Siddaramaiah noted.

**Guarantee schemes**

He termed the guarantee schemes too as tools for removing regional imbalances. As much as 43.63% per cent of the funds meant for guarantee schemes had been spent in North Karnataka region, he pointed out.

Of the total population of 6.95 crore in the State, North Karnataka accounted for 2.96 crore (42%). Geographically, the northern region accounted for 14 districts of the total 31 districts in the State and 97 Assembly constituencies of the total 224 in the State, he explained.

Citing lack of dairy development in North Karnataka as one of the reasons for its backwardness, particularly in rural areas, he pointed out that as against the State's milk production of over one crore litres a day, the northern milk unions accounted for just 10 lakh litres a day.

Accusing the Centre of indulging in non-cooperation with the State, he alleged that the Centre had failed to keep its promise of providing assistance of ₹5,300 crore to Upper Bhadra Project as listed in its Budget a few years ago.

Similarly, it had put a stumbling block in the path of development of North Karnataka by not notifying the award of Krishna Water Disputes Tribunal-2 and by not providing clearances to the Mahadayi drinking water project, he alleged.

The Centre was yet to provide the State's share of ₹13,000 crore towards Jal Jeevan Mission and ₹3,000 crore towards peripheral ring road in Bengaluru, he said, and reiterated that Karnataka had suffered a loss of ₹ 1.5 lakh crore in the last five years in terms of devolution of funds, grants and its share of Central taxes though it contributed a tax amount of ₹4.5 lakh crore a year.

He agreed to bring out a White Paper on the status of promises made for the development of North Karnataka.

## INBRIEF

### Lokesh slams YSRCP for filing PIL pleas against IT projects

Andhra Pradesh IT&HRD Minister Nara Lokesh has strongly condemned the filing of a series of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petitions by the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) against major IT park projects in the State, stating that such actions jeopardise employment opportunities for the youth. Mr. Lokesh said the YSRCP moved PIL pleas against the IT parks proposed by TCS, Cognizant, Sattva, and now Raheja, which have the potential to provide more than one lakh jobs.

### African swine fever resurfaces in Thrissur; 396 pigs culled

Thrissur district of Kerala is on alert again following the confirmation of African swine fever (ASF), a highly contagious viral disease affecting pigs, with the latest case reported from Kadangode panchayat. The new detection takes the number of affected panchayats in the district to three within the last three months, raising serious concern among farmers and authorities. To curb further spread, suspected infected pigs are being culled, with 396 pigs culled so far.

### *Two Seasons, Two Strangers* wins best film award at IFFK

Japanese filmmaker Sho Miyake's *Two seasons, Two Strangers*, an introspective drama on a scriptwriter's emotional upheavals, won the Golden Crow Pheasant (Suvarna Chakoram) award for the best film at the 30th International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK), which concluded on Friday. Argentine filmmakers Carina Piazza and Lucía Bracelis won the Silver Crow Pheasant (Rajatha Chakoram) award for best director for the film *Before the Body*.

# 41 Maoists surrender, hand over firearms in Telangana

**The group included a batallion commander and Divisional Committee members; DGP says they renounced violence and will rejoin the mainstream; ₹1.46 cr. to be spent for their rehabilitation**

**The Hindu Bureau**
HYDERABAD

Forty-one underground cadres of the banned CPI (Maoist) organisation surrendered before the Telangana Police on Friday, along with 24 firearms, marking one of the largest such surrenders in the State this year, police said.

The surrendered group included six senior functionaries, Platoon Committee member and Divisional Committee members.

Among them were Madakam Manga, 28, a People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) battalion commander; Erragolla Ravi, 40, secretary of the Komaram Bheem Asifabad Mancherial divisional committee; and Korsa Lachu, 34, commander of the second Central Regional Command company.

Telangana DGP Shivadhar Reddy addresses a press conference after surrender of 41 Maoists on Friday. PTI

The surrender took place in the presence of the Director General of Police, Shivadhar Reddy.

The DGP said the cadres formally renounced violence and opted to rejoin mainstream society.

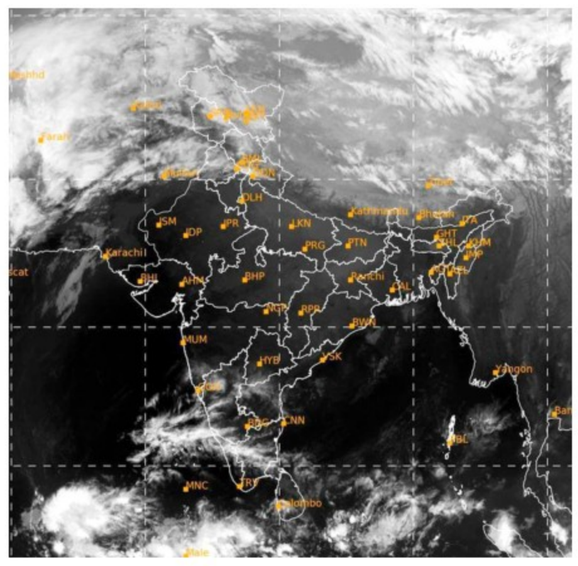
The weapons handed over included an INSAS light machine gun, three AK-47 rifles, five SLRs, seven INSAS rifles, a BGL gun, four .303 rifles, a single shot rifle and two air guns, along with 733 live rounds of ammunition and eight BGL shells.

According to the officer, the surrendered cadres belonged to multiple formations, like the PLGA, the Telangana State Committee and the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee.

Police said the total eligible rehabilitation and surrender incentive amount for the group works out to ₹1.46 crore.

## WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

**Forecast for Saturday:** Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Karnataka and Telangana. Dense/very dense fog likely at isolated places over Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Bihar, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Punjab and Sikkim

| CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN | CITY | RAIN | MAX | MIN |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Agartala | — | 29.4 | 14.2 | Kozhikode | — | 31.4 | 21.4 |
| Ahmedabad | — | 30.6 | 14.2 | Kurnool | — | 31.1 | 15.4 |
| Aizawl | — | 27.5 | 10.7 | Lucknow | — | 15.5 | 10.4 |
| Allahabad | — | 15.0 | 12.6 | Madurai | — | 31.8 | 19.6 |
| Bengaluru | — | 26.5 | 15.4 | Mangaluru | — | 32.4 | 20.2 |
| Bhopal | — | 27.0 | 6.4 | Mumbai | — | 32.6 | 20.2 |
| Bhubaneswar | — | 28.2 | 12.8 | Mysuru | — | 29.0 | 15.0 |
| Chandigarh | — | 21.9 | 7.9 | New Delhi | — | 23.2 | 9.1 |
| Chennai | — | 29.6 | 21.2 | Patna | — | 14.8 | 13.1 |
| Coimbatore | — | 28.6 | 18.0 | Port Blair | — | 30.3 | 25.6 |
| Dehradun | — | 22.2 | 7.3 | Puducherry | — | 29.8 | 20.4 |
| Gangtok | — | 17.9 | 8.2 | Pune | — | 31.9 | 12.7 |
| Goa | — | 24.6 | 12.8 | Raipur | — | 26.9 | 8.3 |
| Guwahati | — | 26.5 | 12.1 | Ranchi | — | 22.8 | 9.5 |
| Hubballi | — | 28.8 | 12.2 | Shillong | — | 18.1 | 7.6 |
| Hyderabad | — | 29.4 | 10.8 | Shimla | — | 15.6 | 12.2 |
| Imphal | — | 23.6 | 11.8 | Srinagar | — | 12.4 | -2.1 |
| Jaipur | — | 28.3 | 11.6 | Thiruvananthapuram | — | 31.6 | 23.1 |
| Kochi | — | 31.0 | 21.8 | Tiruchi | — | 28.5 | 19.6 |
| Kohima | — | 18.0 | 7.2 | Vijayawada | — | 29.4 | 18.4 |
| Kolkata | — | 27.7 | 18.3 | Visakhapatnam | — | 28.0 | 19.3 |

*(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)*

**Pollutants in the air you are breathing**

| CITIES | $SO_2$ | $NO_2$ | CO | PM2.5 | PM10 | CODE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ahmedabad | .64 | ..86 | .40 | ...198 | ...164 | |
| Bengaluru | ...4 | ..26 | .23 | .....— | ...219 | |
| Chennai | ...7 | ..19 | .35 | ...234 | ...142 | |
| Delhi | .25 | ..71 | 105 | ...426 | ...367 | |
| Hyderabad | .21 | ..17 | .46 | ...105 | ...123 | |
| Kolkata | ...6 | ..21 | .22 | ...260 | ...172 | |
| Lucknow | ...7 | ..38 | .40 | ...218 | ...169 | |
| Mumbai | .15 | ..58 | .42 | ...194 | ...167 | |
| Pune | ..— | ..32 | .53 | ...316 | ...302 | |
| Visakhapatnam | .49 | 139 | .23 | ...342 | ...299 | |

**Yesterday**

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 376 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 29

**Air Quality Code:** Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

**$SO_2$:** Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

**$NO_2$:** Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

**CO:** Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

**PM2.5 & PM10:** Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

# Congress slams case against parody song

**The Hindu Bureau**
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress on Friday challenged the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government of Kerala to arrest the creators and broadcasters of the parody of a popular Ayyappa devotional song that lampooned the ruling front for the alleged culpability of its appointees on the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) in the Sabarimala gold theft case.

The catchy song arguably catalysed the Congress-led United Democratic Front's good showing in the local body elections.

The Congress cast the police case as an infringement on artistic freedom and political dissent and as a clear violation of the constitutional protections for freedom of speech and expression.

The police have booked the lyricist, composer, and singers on charges of outraging religious faith and fostering enmity.

# Sabarimala gold case probe stagnating: HC

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Friday observed that there was "serious stagnation" in the Special Investigation Team (SIT) probe into the alleged misappropriation of gold from Sabarimala.

The court directed the investigating officer to address the issue. It said the SIT had not arrested two of the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) office-bearers who signed the order permitting the first accused Unnikrishnan Potti to take the temple door frames and other items for gold cladding, after describing them as copper-plated.

The Bench also dismissed the bail pleas of suspended TDB officer Murari Babu, former TDB president N. Vasu, and ex-Thiruvabharanam Commissioner K.S. Baiju. The SIT is said to have detained a Bengaluru-based jeweller and the owner of a metal-works firm in Chennai.

# Kerala woman slapped by police officer to continue legal fight

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOCHI

A day after K.G. Prathapa Chandran, the station house officer (SHO) at the Aroor police station in Kerala, was suspended for allegedly slapping a pregnant woman, when he was the Ernakulam Town North SHO, the woman vowed to continue her legal fight against him.

N.J. Shymol, who was allegedly assaulted by Mr. Prathapa Chandran, on Friday, said, "We will go forward with the complaint. I was not just slapped but was also insulted as a woman. We will do everything possible legally to get him the maximum punishment," Ms. Shymol told presspersons. She said legal action would be initiated against other police personnel who also 'manhandled' her at the station.

The incident that took place on June 20, 2024, came to light on Thursday after she managed to obtain the CCTV visuals of the assault through an RTI query. Ms. Shymol was at the station after the police took her husband into custody after he reportedly filmed the alleged forceful detention of two youths accused of theft.

Responding to the release of the visuals, Mr. Prathapa Chandran accused the woman of creating a ruckus at the police station and trying to hurt her infant twins.

Meanwhile, more people came out with allegations of assault and unruly behaviour by Mr. Prathapa Chandran on Friday. The police were yet to respond to the fresh allegations.

## *Smog cover*

**Low visibility:** People go on their morning walk along the Beach Road in Visakhapatnam on Friday as dense fog combined with polluted air engulfs the stretch, significantly reducing visibility . The city's air quality index has slipped into the poor category. K. R. DEEPAK

# HC quashes order allowing company to set up brewery

**The Hindu Bureau**
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Friday quashed a government order (G.O.) that had accorded preliminary sanction to a private firm to establish an ethanol plant for a brewery at Elappully in Palakkad district.

A Division Bench quashed the order, while considering a batch of public interest litigation (PIL) petitions that challenged the setting up of the plant in the area.

The court observed that many aspects that the government considered while according preliminary sanction were not factually correct.

The firm had submitted an application in November 2023 to the Excise Commissioner, seeking permission to install a 500-KL capacity ethanol plant and an IMFL bottling unit, among others, at the site.

Subsequently, the government granted preliminary sanction.

**Water shortage**

The petitioners contended that the sanction was granted on the basis of factually incorrect inputs, including that the unit was going to be established at the Kanjikode industrial area that is located around 5 km from Elappully. In addition, the Kerala Water Authority (KWA) agreed to provide water, despite the concern that this would imperil water availability in the area. Moreover, statutory licences were not obtained from the panchayat.

While allowing the PILs and quashing the GO, the court clarified that the government was not precluded from making a fresh consideration of any application if made.

**Chennithala hails order**

Congress leader and member of the Congress Working Committee Ramesh Chennithala welcomed the High Court order denying permission to the brewery.

He said that it gives him immense satisfaction that the agitation he had led as the then Leader of the Opposition, against the government's move to grant licences to breweries and distilleries, was accruing results. He said that the move was part of a larger conspiracy to hand over the State to liquor lobby.

# Cybercrime police and bank staff foil 'digital arrest' scam

**The Hindu Bureau**
HYDERABAD

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) has foiled a 'digital arrest' fraud attempt and saved a retried school teacher in Nalgonda district from losing ₹18 lakh.

The intervention was carried out by the District Cybercrime Coordination Centre (D4C) of the TGCSB after fraudsters attempted to coerce the elderly victim into transferring his retirement savings. The victim, P Devender Reddy, a resident of Nalgonda, who retired a year ago, had deposited his retirement benefits in his bank account. Police said the victim had been under sustained psychological pressure for nearly three days from cyber criminals posing as Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) officials. The callers falsely claimed that his Aadhaar number had been linked to a criminal case involving the circulation of obscene photos and videos on social media. They threatened him with 'digital arrest' and demanded an immediate transfer of ₹18 lakh to close the alleged case. On December 19, around noon, the victim and his wife went to the State Bank of India's Prakasham Bazar branch in Nalgonda to transfer the money. Bank officials noticed his anxious behaviour and urgency, which raised suspicion. The branch manager promptly alerted the Deputy Superintendent of Police of the D4C, Nalgonda. The DSP and the cybercrime team rushed to the bank and temporarily halted the transaction. After conducting a detailed enquiry, the team confirmed that it was a 'digital arrest' scam. Owing to the timely intervention, the fraudulent transaction was stopped and the entire amount of ₹18 lakh, the victim's retirement benefits, was successfully saved.

Cybercrime Police have initiated further technical analysis to trace the fraudsters involved.

# IN-SPACe invites proposals to establish space labs across academic institutions

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) has rolled out a Request for Proposal (RfP) to establish Antariksh Prayogshala (Space Labs) at select academic institutions across India, as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen the country's space technology ecosystem and build future-ready talent.

IN-SPACe, an autonomous agency in the Department of Space, said Antariksh Prayogshala is a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at creating state-of-the-art space laboratories within Indian academic institutions. These labs will provide hands-on training and exposure to students pursuing space tech courses across the country.

File photo of the IN-SPACe's technical centre Machines and Labs in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. VIJAY SONEJI

**Financial support**

Under the scheme, up to seven academic institutions will be selected in a phased manner from different zones. "To ensure balanced regional representation one lab is proposed in each zone. These labs will also be available to NGEs for utilization in that zone. IN-SPACe will provide financial support of up to 75 percent of the total project cost, with a cap of ₹5 crore per institution," IN-SPACe said.

It added that the selection process will be carried out in two stages. Institutions will first be screened based on eligibility criteria outlined in the RfP.

"By creating shared spaces for students, researchers, and industry, these labs will enable applied research, early-stage innovation, and skill development aligned with real industry needs," Vinod Kumar, director at the Promotion Directorate of IN-SPACe, said.

## Do not rush it

### The SIR requires more time to prevent mass exclusions

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has released the draft electoral roll for seven States and Union Territories after the first phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) was completed with the submission of enumeration forms by eligible voters and their digitisation by Booth Level Officers (BLO). In Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, more than 97 lakh and 58 lakh voters, respectively, were deleted. These deletions range from 7.5% of the pre-SIR rolls in West Bengal to 15% in the case of Tamil Nadu. In West Bengal, the deletions seem to be the highest in urban areas, especially Kolkata. A clear picture on the gender breakup and the reasons for the deletions will emerge only after parsing the ECI's booth-wise data. Reports also indicate that the ECI has identified a high number of enumeration forms in West Bengal as either unmapped to the 2002 electoral roll or carrying doubtful linkages. The risk of widespread exclusions looms within a compressed 53-day hearing window with Electoral Registration Officers expected to insist on citizenship documentation, including proof of parents' birth details for those born after 1987. In Bihar, the Supreme Court of India's salve – allowing electors to use Aadhaar as a viable identity document – helped stave off a high number of deletions, but even then, 68 lakh names were deleted and 24 lakh added as fresh voters or through change/correction requests. The resultant drop in the female gender ratio, from 907 in the pre-SIR rolls to 892 in the final rolls, suggested that all was not well with the SIR in that State.

Seen in this light, the Court's direction to the ECI to take a "sympathetic view" of representations to extend the enumeration phase by considering the "ground realities" is something that the electoral body should heed. While the ECI has proclaimed that it will ensure no genuine voter is disenfranchised, it relies on tabulating change/correction requests from Booth Level Agents of political parties rather than cross-mapping with government databases such as death registration data. Vulnerable sections such as short-term migrants, illiterate voters and married women risk disenfranchisement under this process, suggesting that the procedure of placing the onus on eligible voters to confirm their presence on the rolls is flawed. Add to this the logistical difficulties faced by States such as Kerala where the SIR coincided with local body elections, combined with the pressure on BLOs to meet tight deadlines, and the case for extending the timeline becomes compelling. Lastly, while the Court has helped ease voter registration during the SIR, it has still not heard the key question of the constitutionality of the whole process. The sooner it decides on it, the easier it would be for electors and the ECI.

## Promise and delivery

### In Telangana, the Congress is making steady progress

The results of Telangana's recent rural local body (RLB) polls, covering elections to gram panchayats for sarpanches and ward members, should not come as a surprise. Congress-backed candidates secured a clear majority of the seats, crossing the 50% mark. This outcome is in keeping with a longer political tradition in the State – and earlier in undivided Andhra Pradesh – where the ruling party has generally done well in rural local body elections. This pattern stands in contrast to States such as Kerala, where RLB polls are more competitive and less tilted towards the incumbent. There are several reasons for this pattern in Telangana. Chiefly, the linkage between State-led rural welfare delivery and local bodies, combined with the alignment of rural elites with the party in power – in this case, the first Congress government of the State led by first-time Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. While RLB elections are, in theory, non-partisan, political parties have always backed candidates, and provided campaign resources, making these contests de facto party elections.

In Telangana's case, local body polls were held for the first time in 2019 after the State's creation in 2014. The TRS bagged over 7,000 gram panchayats, with the Congress a distant second (about 2,700 seats). The outcome underlined the extent to which the incumbent party had consolidated rural political power through welfare delivery. Against this backdrop, the present outcome suggests that some of the Congress's poll promises have begun to find resonance. Chief among them is the Rythu Bharosa scheme, which provides an annual direct cash benefit of ₹12,000 per acre for land under cultivation, along with an equivalent annual assistance for landless agricultural households. This working capital support builds on the Rythu Bandhu scheme of the BRS, which had offered ₹10,000 annually, but limited it to landowners. The elections were also held against the backdrop of the non-implementation of 42% reservation for Backward Classes (BC) in local bodies, passed by the State Legislature following the 2024 caste survey but stalled by a High Court order. While the case did not dominate campaign discourse, most parties including the Congress fielded a higher number of BC candidates, signalling an attempt at greater social representation. This, along with some progress on government recruitment, appears to have buttressed the incumbent. It may be a stretch to call the RLB verdict a referendum on a two-year-old government. But to ignore its political message would be foolhardy, particularly for the principal Opposition, the BRS, which continues to search for a durable rural counter-narrative.

# *Kerala 2.0 — a call to reclaim the State's future*

**Shashi Tharoor**

is a a fourth-term Member of Parliament (Congress) for Thiruvananthapuram (Lok Sabha) and a Member of the Congress Working Committee

Kerala stands at a crossroads. For too long, we have watched the slow unravelling of a State once hailed as a model of human development. Today, the signs of distress are unmistakable: mounting debt, ecological collapse, fiscal disarray and a governance culture that too often drifts between bankrupt inertia and partisan improvisation. Yet, amid the gloom, I refuse to succumb to cynicism. I believe Kerala can rise again – if we summon the courage to confront hard truths and embrace bold reforms.

This is a call to action.

**The list of issues**

Let us begin with the numbers. Kerala's debt has ballooned to unsustainable levels, driven not by strategic investment but by a pattern of borrowing to plug routine deficits, even (towards the end of the year) to pay salaries and pensions. Kerala today spends more on debt servicing than on development projects. The State's reliance on remittances, liquor taxes and lotteries – an emblem of desperation – has become a substitute for sound fiscal planning. Goods and Services Tax (GST) leakages and inefficiencies in tax collection further erode its revenue base. And the lack of jobs and record levels of youth unemployment are driving Kerala's young people to other States or abroad. We need to attract the job-generating investments that will keep them here.

But the crisis is also moral. We have allowed a culture of entitlement to take root, where subsidies are expected, accountability is evaded, and the dignity of labour is too often distorted into coercion. The Malayali work ethic, a source of pride outside Kerala, has been dulled within the State by years of political patronage and bureaucratic complacency. We must abolish extortion-based labour practices such as *nokkukooli*, ban the invidious coercion of hartals, rediscover the value of effort, the nobility of enterprise, and the joy of creating rather than merely consuming.

This renewal begins with governance. Kerala needs a government that listens, learns, and leads – not one that merely promotes its own cadres. We must restore institutional integrity, empower local bodies and ensure that public servants serve the public, not party interests. Transparency must be more than a slogan; it must be a daily practice. From procurement to appointments, the people deserve to know how decisions are made and why.

And we must confront a deeper malaise: the politicisation of everything. Even the most routine administrative decisions are often filtered through partisan lenses. This has eroded public trust and stifled innovation. When every appointment, transfer or policy tweak becomes a political battleground, governance suffers. We need to depoliticise the bureaucracy, protect merit and restore the primacy of public interest over party interest. Equally urgent is the need to dismantle the thicket of over-regulation that chokes enterprise. We have all learned painfully how well-meaning rules often morph into barriers – discouraging investment, delaying approvals and disincentivising initiative. Kerala must move from a culture of control to one of facilitation. Let us slash 75% of our regulations, streamline bureaucratic procedures so that files do not take months to be cleared, simplify all government approvals under a single-window "One Kerala Permit" system for farmers, entrepreneurs and builders, digitise governance, and empower citizens to act – not wait endlessly for decisions.

> Kerala can rise again, but only if there is the courage to confront hard truths and pursue bold reforms

**The need to think beyond remittances**

We must also rethink our economic model. Kerala cannot thrive on remittances and retail alone. We need to nurture industries that reflect our strengths – knowledge, creativity and sustainability. Let us invest in green technologies, promote high-tech agro-processing, and support startups that seize new opportunities (biogenetics, rare earths and minerals, eco-tourism, space tech, Artificial Intelligence, quantum computing) to solve 21st century problems. High-tech value-added products and precision manufacturing, maritime and port development, export of marine products, and development of supply chains and logistics hubs need to be further explored. We must support women entrepreneurs with micro finance and digital training.

We must mobilise our citizenry, including non-resident Indians, by launching a Kerala Savings Mission encouraging citizens to invest in State development bonds. We should attract back skilled Malayali professionals from abroad through incentives and recognition. And, we must give investors the security of an 'Investor Protection Act' to ensure that their capital will not be lost for non-market-related reasons.

Tourism must be reimagined not as a spectacle but as an immersive experience rooted in culture and community. Our strengths in health care and wellness could make Kerala a major centre for medical tourism spanning allopathic, ayurvedic and other forms of holistic healing. Above all, we must take pride in what we produce – from coir to code – and ensure that "Made in Kerala" becomes a mark of excellence.

Education and health have long been Kerala's crown jewels. But even these are tarnishing. Our schools and colleges must prepare students not just for examinations but for life – for critical thinking, civic engagement and global citizenship. Internships should be available even during the academic year, to connect students to the real world. Our hospitals must be equipped not just with infrastructure but with compassion. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed both our strengths and our vulnerabilities. Let us learn from it and build resilient systems that serve all, especially the most vulnerable.

Culture, too, must be reclaimed. Kerala's pluralism is its soul. In a time of rising intolerance, we must reaffirm our commitment to coexistence, dialogue and mutual respect. The legacy of Sree Narayana Guru (the subject of my new book) reminds us that true progress lies not in division but in upliftment. Let us teach our children not just history but empathy – not just heritage but hope.

And we must not neglect immediate problems affecting the quality of life of the average Keralite. Kerala must urgently confront three escalating crises that threaten both public safety and social cohesion: environment, drugs and dogs. Our ecology groans under the weight of unchecked quarrying, sand mining and encroachments that threaten our rivers and forests. A "Clean & Green Kerala Mission 2030" is overdue. Tackling the drug crisis among our youth requires a multi-pronged approach – from celebrity-led awareness campaigns to ensuring that de-addiction centres function effectively and compassionately. Meanwhile, the stray dog menace affecting citizens across age groups, especially children, has taken a deadly turn: by August 2025 alone, 23 people had died from rabies, with troubling reports of fatalities even after post-exposure vaccination. The Animal Birth Control programme must be implemented with vigour. These are not fringe concerns – they are daily anxieties for ordinary Keralites. Addressing them with seriousness is indispensable.

**Begin the rebuilding**

For too long, Kerala's political discourse has been trapped in binaries – Left versus Right, secular versus communal, Congress versus Communist, but nothing seems to change. Yet, the real divide is between cynicism and possibility. I choose possibility. I believe politics can be a noble vocation, rooted in service and guided by principle. I believe leaders must earn trust not through slogans but through substantive work.

This vision is not mine alone. It is shaped by conversations with farmers and fisherfolk, teachers and traders, nurses and nuns, bureaucrats and politicians. It reflects the aspirations of youth who want opportunity without leaving home, and of elders who want dignity without dependence. It is informed by the diaspora, whose love for Kerala is matched only by their frustration at its stagnation.

To them – and to all Malayalis – I say: the time for passive lament is over. The time for active renewal has come.

Let us build a Kerala that is fiscally prudent, ecologically resilient, economically vibrant, and socially just. Let us move "beyond cynicism" (the title of an exciting new book on the way forward for Kerala) and reclaim the promise of our land. Not with nostalgia, but with vision; not with rhetoric, but with resolve; not with division, but with unity.

Kerala deserves nothing less.

# *The significance of a strong defence industrial base*

**Rajiv Gauba**

is Member, NITI Aayog

India's aspiration to become a developed nation by 2047 rests not only on social and economic transformation but also on the strength of its strategic capabilities. Among these, the defence industrial base occupies a pivotal role. For far too long, the country's defence manufacturing ecosystem has remained constrained by restrictive policies, resulting in limited private participation and excessive reliance on imports. Domestic private industries were not allowed in this sector but there were imports, without compunction, from private manufacturers from across the world. The result was a structural vulnerability that affected both economic potential and national security.

**A shift after reforms**

But there has been a significant shift in recent years. There has been an opening up to the private sector, liberalised foreign direct investment norms, corporatisation of the Ordnance Factory Board, and a progressive expansion of the list of arms and armaments to be procured under the 'Make' procedure apart from a pro-active promotion of innovation, which have all contributed to rapid progress. Defence production has increased and exports have grown exponentially, now reaching more than 80 countries.

These trends signal a maturing ecosystem that is increasingly capable of meeting domestic requirements while also contributing to global supply chains.

The evolving global security landscape, marked by conflicts in Europe, West Asia and Asia, has exposed the fragility of international peace and the risks of supply-chain disruptions. Nations with robust domestic defence industries have proved to be more resilient. For India, which faces persistent challenges along its borders and in the maritime domain, self-reliance in defence is not only desirable but also indispensable.

> In an evolving global security landscape, India's security and economic ambitions demand nothing less

At the same time, shifting geopolitical dynamics are opening up new possibilities. Europe's renewed emphasis on defence spending, the saturation of traditional suppliers, and growing demand for cost-effective and reliable platforms create opportunities that India is well-positioned to capture. The country's strategic geography in the Indian Ocean Region and its expanding diplomatic profile further strengthen its potential to emerge as a credible supplier of defence equipment.

**Simplify procedures**

But realising this potential will require sustained focus on reforms. Regulatory complexities continue to hinder private-sector participation, especially for micro, small and medium enterprises and startups. Export licensing, joint ventures and technology-transfer approvals need to be speeded up. Long-term demand projections will give the private sector the confidence to make large investments. The pathway to achieving India's stated ambition of ₹50,000 crore in defence exports by 2029 will require simplifying procedures and ensuring policy continuity.

The role of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) also needs to evolve. The DRDO has been instrumental in building India's strategic capabilities, but the next phase demands a sharper division of responsibilities. Frontier research must remain its core focus, while production, scaling and commercialisation should increasingly shift to industry, public and private. Such an approach aligns with global best practices and will strengthen competitiveness.

A dedicated, professionally staffed export facilitation agency would streamline outreach and provide a single-window interface for global partners. It will also help overcome the challenges arising from fragmented institutional arrangements across Ministries and the resultant coordination issues.

**Key steps to take**

Equally important is the need to overhaul financial, testing and certification frameworks. Indian manufacturers often face challenges in securing competitive credit lines, meeting excessively stringent domestic standards and conducting trials within reasonable timelines.

Establishing specialised export financing instruments, expanding integrated testing facilities and adopting international certification protocols can dramatically improve competitiveness. A more proactive use of lines of credit, government-to-government agreements, and long-term service commitments would further enhance India's credibility in a market dominated by established players.

Defence exports are not merely a commercial undertaking. They signify technological maturity, strategic reliability and the emergence of a nation as a major actor in the international security architecture. Strengthening the defence industrial base is essential not only for reducing import dependency but, equally, for generating high-skilled employment, and enhancing geopolitical leverage.

The progress in recent years is encouraging. What is required now are consistent efforts to deepen reforms and build an ecosystem that encourages innovation and investments. India's security and economic ambitions demand nothing less.

The pursuit of a strong defence industrial base is not just a strategic necessity. It is a defining step toward India's emergence as a confident, capable and influential global power.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Good advice**

The Supreme Court of India's caution to the Election Commission of India (ECI) is timely, as hurried electoral revisions risk excluding genuine voters. Ground realities such as population size, administrative capacity and errors in enumeration cannot be ignored. With elections still distant, speed should not override accuracy and inclusiveness. The ECI must ensure that the process strengthens democracy and not weaken public trust.

**Christene Grace Thomson,**
Kollam, Kerala

**'Creatures of the night'**

The sub-editors of a newspaper are the "unsung heroes" of journalism as they work behind the scenes, meticulously transforming a reporter's raw copy into a polished, accurate, and engaging news story, with a compelling headline — making them cardinal of the integrity and reputation of a newspaper. Sub-editors are the carpenters of words and turn them into the newspaper that we buy from newsstands (Opinion page – 'NoteBook', December 19). Readers may ignore the best stories if the headlines are weak or fail to capture their attention. This is where the sub-editor makes a world of a difference to the 'pulling power' of a newspaper. It is no wonder that sub-editors are treated as 'gold' as the credibility of a newspaper rests on the shoulders of these hidden champions of journalism.

**R. Sivakumar,**
Chennai

Compliments to the nocturnal brigade who make our mornings lively, fresh and informed. The agony of and the toil put in by the sleep-deprived 'sub-editor tribe', often going against medical advice about their work cycle, was well-documented. But I wonder how long this will last with the advent of the digital age and digital content.

**Saeed Muhammad,**
Kannur, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

A Buddhist shrine damaged in Cyclone Ditwah in Kandy.
MEERA SRINIVASAN

# The long path from wreckage to recovery

Cyclone Ditwah has claimed at least 643 lives and displaced scores of people in Sri Lanka. While it has affected several villages and towns, the highest death toll has been recorded in Kandy in the Central Province. It is part of the island's hill country that is home to the Malaiyaha Tamils, whose centuries-old precarity makes them especially vulnerable to such shocks. **Meera Srinivasan** reports on the devastation left in the disaster's wake

It was C. Nithsara's first bath in 12 days. Wrapped in a white bodysuit, with large black dots marked on his forehead and cheek – believed to ward off the evil eye – the two-month-old bounced gently on his grandmother's lap, flashing a wide grin at visitors, blissfully unaware of the storm that had destroyed his village.

His family, from Rajathalawa in Sri Lanka's Kandy district in the Central Province, has been sheltering at a Buddhist temple in a neighbouring village for nearly two weeks. They have remained there since Cyclone Ditwah struck the island in late November, bringing torrential rains, floods, and landslides. With water treatment facilities inundated in the floods, piped water for bathing and cooking is unavailable, making wells and, in some cases, rainwater the only alternative.

"Our home started sliding into the earth. The floor cracked and the walls came crashing down," says Nandika Kumari, while engaging her bubbly grandchild. "We are lucky to be alive. Eight of our relatives near our home were killed in the landslide... rescue workers have been able to recover only three bodies so far, so we held a small funeral just outside the temple."

Kandy has recorded the highest death toll from the devastating event. Of the 643 reported dead across the island so far, 237 are from this district, a popular Buddhist religious and cultural centre that draws scores of tourists every year. At least 73 are still missing in this district, as per the latest data. Some 60 families and nearly 200 people from Nandika Kumari's village are living on the temple premises, unsure of when and where they might go, leaving behind their loved ones beneath the soil, their crushed walls and roofs, and the place they once knew as home.

## The remains of the day

Efforts to restore essential services are ongoing in the locality. They are compounded by the hazard of continued rain loosening the slopes further, and the difficulty of working in layers of mud, not knowing where human remains lie. Moist, brick red soil, cleared to create a narrow path through the site, lay piled in large mounds on either side, obscuring the view of the surrounding hills. Ceylon Electricity Board personnel work to provide temporary lines for power and mobile connectivity. Trapped in the earth and peeking through it are a hollowed-out autorickshaw, a damaged van, tangled wires, and a torn pink teddy bear, among other household belongings – fragments of lives once lived and livelihoods painstakingly built.

A United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assessment has found that the cyclone triggered around 1,200 landslides in Sri Lanka's hilly interior. The Disaster Management Centre continues to issue landslide warnings amid intermittent showers.

"We have been told our area is still unsafe and prone to landslides. We have been asked not to return," says T.G Nandavati, 65, who is also staying in the temple prayer hall. She is a Sinhala speaker who picked up Tamil from neighbours in her mixed ethnicity village, and even learnt some Arabic during her years as a housemaid in West Asia. Over decades, she built a modest home with basic appliances and utensils, using savings from her four-year stint in Riyadh, her later work in the surrounding small-scale tea estates, and with contributions from her daughter, who was a domestic worker in Kuwait for 13 years. "Every single item is gone; nothing is left. But I don't want any of those things. I am done," says Nandavati. "We must start all over again. All I need now is a basic meal and a place to sleep."

> We must start all over again. All I need now is a basic meal and a place to sleep
>
> **T.G NANDAVATI**
> Resident, Kandy

For the cyclone-hit country, the transition from urgent rescue operations to humanitarian aid and relief, and later to long-term rebuilding, is far from easy. Families have specific yet varied needs, ranging from new homes to household appliances. Soon, they will need new jobs, along with stronger social protection and some food security, if they are to cope with the huge losses to life, property, and livelihoods.

## The scale of the disaster

The cyclone's impact is visible not just in villages, but also in towns that were submerged for days. In Gampola, the once-bustling town nearest to Nandavati's village, small businesses and traders have laid bare the toll of the devastation along the main road. Wet and damaged ware, furniture, packing material, and sacks of rice and spices lie heaped along the margins. The stench is unbearable and the monetary loss is staggering.

Locals are not just overwhelmed, but also in disbelief. "I have not seen anything like this in my life," says S.H. Adham, 80, temporarily staying at a mosque in the nearby Nawalapitiya town with other families who were evacuated amid landslide warnings. "Heavy rains and some flooding, we are used to. But not this. Something has really changed," he says, echoing the chief concern of climate activists everywhere.

Ditwah is among the worst natural disasters Sri Lanka has witnessed, with development experts warning that the response may prove more challenging than in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. The UNDP has estimated that 2.3 million people – about 10% of Sri Lanka's population – were living in flooded areas. Its geospatial analysis showed that floodwaters had inundated over 1.1 million hectares, almost 20% of the country's land area, reaching nearly 7,20,000 buildings – about one in every 12.

The impact of the cyclone on Gampola town in Kandy district. AFP

Over 300 roads and 40 key bridges have been damaged, with the Road Development Authority (RDA) reporting a loss of nearly LKR 75 billion (roughly ₹22 billion). While more than half of the power connections on the island were disrupted during the cyclone days, the Ceylon Electricity Board has flagged 40% damage to its infrastructure in the impact. The Disaster Management Centre has enumerated close to 5 lakh affected families and 17 lakh people. Over 6,000 homes are fully damaged, and at least 1 lakh homes are partially destroyed.

While the full extent of damage and loss is still being assessed, authorities continue to search for the missing, clearing routes through the rubble, reopening roads wherever possible, and building temporary bridges to connect isolated and cut-off communities. The UN aims to mobilise $35 million in grants over the next four years for the island nation which declared bankruptcy in 2022 as it could not repay its loans.

## Blow after blow

Cyclone Ditwah is the country's third major blow in five years. As with the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020 and the financial crash of 2022, the burden once again falls heaviest on Sri Lanka's working-class poor, small-scale producers, and small and medium enterprises.

Among them, the Malaiyaha Tamils, a community long discriminated, marginalised socially, and highly exploited in their labour, are yet again badly hit. The official death toll from the cyclone is segregated district-wise, but not according to ethnicity. However, the highest number of deaths have been reported from the Kandy, Nuwara Eliya, and Badulla districts, across the Central and Uva Provinces. These are home to scores of Malaiyaha Tamils, many of whom live and work on tea estates known to be prone to landslides. Their precarity, which has endured over the two centuries since their ancestors landed from southern India, heightens their vulnerability to shocks. Hundreds of thousands still live in overcrowded colonial-era barrack-style 'line rooms', where roads or water connections do not reach. Sanitation facilities are inadequate, and the access to education and health care is poor.

Kalaivani* estimates she will need close to LKR 1,00,000 (about ₹30,000) to rebuild her home that was damaged in the landslide. After toiling in tea estates for 35 years, long enough to read the terrain and the yield, she sees little hope for those employed in the sector. "The tea bushes in our estate [on the outskirts of Kandy town] are not maintained well," she says. This neglect directly impacts a worker's daily wage, which is tied to unreasonable, or even impossible, targets. "If there are no tea leaves, we won't be called to work. Even on the days we are called, there won't be enough leaves for us to pluck [to meet the target in weight]."

The marginal wage hike that the plantation companies previously promised remains mostly on paper for many workers. Even with their best efforts, workers are unable to meet the targets. "The President [Anura Kumara Dissanayake] has said our wages will go up from January [2026]. Let us see," says Maheswari*, another worker on a Kandy estate.

But the women labourers are not holding their breath. They have heard several promises of wage hikes over the years – governments and leaders have changed, yet plantation companies remain stubbornly opposed, citing high production costs and a volatile export market. Workers, on the other hand, point to their abysmal living and working conditions, high living costs after record inflation, and growing job insecurity. Many estate workers in the area have not been called for work since the cyclone hit. Those who returned have not heard a word on compensation for the workdays lost for no fault of theirs. The concerns they voiced before the cyclone have only become more acute and urgent.

The workers are tired of having to pay the price. After Sri Lanka defaulted on its external debt and declared bankruptcy in 2022, the Gotabaya Rajapaksa government made its first stop at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), a long-standing lender whose loans it had sought 16 times already. Although it is Sri Lanka's foreign debt that is unsustainable, the IMF asked Colombo to restructure its domestic debt, which it did without a murmur. This exercise reduced the value of superannuation funds. The move hit Malaiyaha Tamil estate workers badly, with their only savings after decades of underpaid labour shrinking in final value abruptly.

"We cannot return to our home because of the destruction and risk. But we have nowhere else to go," says Danam*, 56. "Our children do not want to work on the estates any more. They want jobs in the shops in nearby towns."

With uncertainty shadowing them, young Malaiyaha Tamils are caught between a bleak present and a daunting future. To escape the difficulty at home, the men migrate within the country for low-paid service jobs. Women, meanwhile, seek domestic work abroad. Their families' plight barely changes, even as their remittances replenish the dollars in state coffers.

## An arduous task ahead

Days after the cyclone, President Dissanayake visited some of the most affected areas in the hill country and met communities, reassuring them of the government's commitment to rebuilding their areas. He also directed officials to prioritise housing and livelihoods in their immediate response, apart from swift financial relief.

Experts say not just estate workers, but smallholder farmers and fishers must be centred in the recovery plan for Sri Lanka, as the country may have to face questions of food security. Terming smallholder farmers and fishers the "backbone of Sri Lanka's food system" in a recent media column, Food and Agriculture Organization representative in Sri Lanka, Vimlendra Sharan, says their rapid return to production is vital not only for their own recovery, "but also for ensuring food security and supporting rural economies."

Citing the challenge of recovery ahead, activists campaigning for economic justice are urging the government to recast its ongoing IMF programme, to secure some fiscal space to support those worst hit by the disaster. Expanding social protection and introducing a public distribution system, among other efforts, will be crucial for protecting the poorest, they contend. They also point to the structural inequality and discrimination that manifests in most affected sections' disadvantaged location, exclusion in official communication – many early warnings were issued in Sinhala only, keeping Tamil-speakers in the dark – and inability to resume livelihoods once the cyclone passed. Every recent crisis in the country has shown that some citizens, invariably the poor, bear the cost of others' recovery.

Prior to last year's elections, Dissanayake's National People Power alliance made a bold pledge to renegotiate the predecessor government's IMF deal, to reduce the pain its squeezing austerity inflicted on ordinary people. One year into power, the centre-left government has not veered away from the IMF guardrails, drawing high praise from Washington DC. The enormous losses suffered by the people in recent weeks did not prompt a single tweak in next year's national Budget, passed in Parliament days after the cyclone made its deadly landfall. Further, Sri Lanka has sought an additional $200 million from the IMF, to cope with the destruction.

The ruling Dissanayake administration faces a formidable task. How it decides to rebuild, and whose lives and livelihoods it decides to foreground, will determine its own political fortune and Sri Lanka's future. Real recovery begins when every citizen feels the cyclone has passed.

*Some workers' names have been changed on request*

*meera.srinivasan@thehindu.co.in*

## From Page One

## 97 lakh electors deleted in T.N., 74 lakh in Gujarat

DMK organising secretary R.S. Bharathi said that Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has directed the party's booth-level agents to verify the draft rolls. "We will start the work immediately. The DMK and its alliance partners will ensure that no genuine elector is left out of the rolls," he added.

Similarly, in Gujarat, out of 5.08 crore names in the electoral rolls before the SIR exercise, 73.7 lakh were deleted, reducing the number of electors to 4.34 crore. According to Gujarat Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Hareet Shukla, the reduction followed an extensive scrutiny process.

Of the electors removed in Gujarat, 18.07 lakh were deceased, 9.69 lakh were absent and 40.25 lakh had permanently migrated, while 3.81 lakh were duplicate entries.

**Other districts in T.N.**

The share of deleted electors ranged between 20% and 25% in Ramanathapuram, Chengalpattu, Tiruppur, and Coimbatore. It was the lowest in Ariyalur, with only 4.6% of voters' names deleted. In Madurai and Dharmapuri as well, less than 7% got deleted.

## Violence in Bangladesh after key leader's death

Leaders and activists of the National Citizen Party, the Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir and the Dhaka University Central Students' Union participated in the protests at Shahbagh and surrounding areas.

Protesters raised slogans hailing Hadi and protested against what they called 'Indian interference' in Bangladesh's affairs.

Following the protests, hundreds of demonstrators reached the office of *Prothom Alo*, one of the largest dailies in Bangladesh, at Karwan Bazar around 11.30 p.m. on Thursday and surrounded the building. Dozens climbed the four-storey structure, vandalised the floors, dragged out documents and furniture, and set them on fire. By Friday morning, the building had been completely charred.

Around 12.15 a.m., protesters stormed the office of *The Daily Star* near Farmgate. Some protesters looted CPUs, monitors, and furniture. More than a dozen journalists and employees were initially trapped on the rooftop, with several others stranded on different floors. Firefighters brought the blaze under control at 2 a.m., and a fire service crane was deployed to rescue those trapped. By 2:30 am, all employees had been evacuated safely.

Following the attacks, operations at *Prothom Alo* and *The Daily Star* were suspended and both newspapers were not published on Friday. Online activities were disrupted. The interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus condemned the attacks and urged citizens to desist from what it described as mob actions carried out by a handful of fringe elements.

"We are deeply sorry for the terror and violence you have endured," the government said in a statement, adding that attacks on journalists are an assault on truth. The government pledged to bring to justice those responsible for the violence.

Mr. Yunus spoke to the editors of *Prothom Alo* and *The Daily Star* over the phone and offered support.

# Govt. to increase reservation for Agniveers in CAPFs to 50%

After reserving 50% constable posts in BSF, the Home Ministry moves to enhance the quota in Group C posts for ex-Agniveers in other CAPFs; new policy marks a shift from earlier decision

**Vijaita Singh**
NEW DELHI

Months before the first batch of Agniveers retires from service, the Union Home Ministry has decided to enhance reservation for ex-Agniveers in the Group C posts of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) from the existing 10% to 50%, a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

On Friday, the Ministry notified that 50% vacant constable posts in the Border Security Force (BSF) will be reserved for former Agniveers. Though exempted from Physical Standard Test and Physical Efficiency Test, the notification suggests that the ex-Agniveers will have to appear for written examinations like other regular candidates.

The official said that the recruitment rules for Group C posts of all CAPFs will be amended gradually in the coming days. This is a significant shift from Ministry's earlier decision to implement 10% reservation for the temporary recruits of the armed forces in the CAPFs.

The notification suggests that the ex-Agniveers will have to appear for written examinations like other regular candidates. IMRAN NISSAR

**Violent protests in 2022**

The recruitment policy announced in 2022 was met with violent protests and was one of the major issues during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

Following protests, the Ministry announced that 10% of all vacancies in the CAPFs will be reserved for the armed forces recruits who have completed four years of service under the Agnipath scheme. It also announced five years age relaxation in recruitment for the first batch and three years age relaxation for subsequent batches. The first batch of Agniveers will be eligible for recruitment in the CAPFs in 2026.

On Friday, the Ministry notified the Border Security Force, General Duty Cadre (Non-Gazetted) Recruitment Rules, (Amendment) Rules, 2025, with new provisions.

The amended Rules say, "By direct recruitment (including fifty per cent vacancies shall be reserved for ex-Agniveers in every recruitment year, ten per cent from ex-Servicemen and up to three per cent for absorption of annual vacancy amongst Combatised Constable (Tradesmen)."

"In the first phase, the recruitment shall be conducted by the Nodal Force for fifty per cent vacancies earmarked for ex-Agniveers" and "in the second phase, recruitment shall be conducted by the Staff Selection Commission for candidates other than ex-Agniveers for the remaining forty-seven per cent (including ten per cent ex-Servicemen) for the vacancies along with the unfilled vacancies of ex-Agniveers in a specific category in the first stage", it said.

For absorption in the rank of constables from among the Combatised Constable (Tradesmen) of the BSF, the age criteria have been relaxed from existing 30 to 35 years.

The CAPFs comprise the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), BSF, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the Assam Rifles.

# Centre to set up a dedicated body to protect ports, ships

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The government will constitute the Bureau of Port Security (BoPS), which will be a dedicated body to oversee the security of vessels and port facilities in the country, official sources said on Friday. The Bureau is being modelled on the lines of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS).

Home Minister Amit Shah convened a meeting to discuss the constitution of BoPS, which was attended by Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ram Mohan Naidu, Minister of Civil Aviation.

The BoPS will ensure timely analysis, collection and exchange of security-related information, with a special focus on cybersecurity, including a dedicated division to safeguard port IT infrastructure from digital threats, a statement issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said.

During the meeting, Mr. Shah emphasised the need to establish a robust port security framework in the country. He directed officials to implement security measures in a graded and risk-based manner, taking into account vulnerabilities, trade potential, location, and other relevant parameters.

The BoPS shall be constituted as a statutory body under provisions of the newly promulgated Merchant Shipping Act, 2025. The Bureau, headed by a Director General, shall function under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and shall be responsible for regulatory and oversight functions relating to the security of ships and port facilities.

The BoPS shall be headed by an IPS officer (Pay Level-15). During the one-year transition period, the Director General of Shipping (DGS/DGMA) shall function as the Director General, BoPS.

Earlier, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was designated as a Recognised Security Organisation (RSO) for seaport facilities with responsibility for undertaking security assessments and preparation of security plans for ports.

# EC seeks Central forces for security at its Kolkata office

**Moyurie Som**
KOLKATA

The Election Commission of India (EC) on Thursday wrote to the Union Home Ministry seeking immediate deployment of Central forces on the premises of the Kolkata office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal, citing a "law and order" situation following protests by booth-level officers during the special intensive revision (SIR).

The poll body said personnel be "immediately deployed to ensure round-the-clock safety and security of the officers and staff of CEO office".

"...in the midst of SIR exercise in West Bengal, there was law and order situation in front of the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal, which was gheraoed by a crowd of booth-level officers and workers from certain political party(ies) on 24th and 25th November," the letter said, adding that a "serious security risk" is being posed to officers and staff of the CEO's office.

The letter refers to the agitations in which hundreds of BLOs had gathered to protest against the workload of the SIR. Some of the protesters broke through barricades and entered the CEO's office. Days after the incident, the poll body asked Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Kumar Verma to provide adequate security to the officials and staff.

# Cash-for-query: HC quashes Lokpal order granting CBI sanction against Moitra

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Friday quashed a Lokpal order granting sanction to the CBI to file a chargesheet against Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra in the alleged cash-for-query controversy.

Mahua Moitra

**Not followed procedure**

A Bench of Justices Anil Kshetarpal and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar said there was a "clear departure" from the procedure expressly mandated under the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, and that the Lokpal had erred in its understanding and interpretation of the provisions of the Act.

"The procedure adopted appears to amount to a form of statutory ingenuity or re-engineering of the Lokpal Act, resulting in a process inconsistent with the scheme, object, and express provisions of the statute," the court said.

The court further directed the Lokpal to consider the grant of sanction under Section 20 of the Lokpal Act strictly in accordance with the provisions of the statute, within a month.

The cash-for-query scam relates to the allegation that Ms. Moitra had asked questions in the House in exchange for cash and gifts from a businessman.

The judgment came on a plea filed by Ms. Moitra challenging the Lokpal's November 12 order granting sanction to the CBI to file a chargesheet against her in connection with the case.

Her plea contended that arguments and submissions were invited from her but were completely ignored before the sanction order was issued under the Lokpal Act, on the ground that they were premature and would be considered at a subsequent stage.

# ISRO's launch of U.S. satellite scheduled on December 24

**The Hindu Bureau**
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch the 6,500 kg BlueBird communications satellite on December 24 from Sriharikota.

The national space agency on Friday announced that the communication satellite developed by the U.S.-based AST SpaceMobile will be launched as part of the LVM3-M6 mission.

"The launch of LVM3-M6 is scheduled on 24 December 2025 at 8.54 am IST from the Second Launch Pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre," it said. The satellite was initially scheduled to be launched on December 15, but was postponed.

# No need to fret if nothing to hide: SC on surveillance

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday reasoned that people with nothing to hide need not be bothered about or afraid of surveillance, even as the State of Telangana batted for citizens' right to privacy, emphasising that even the President cannot direct anyone to be put under illegal snooping.

The State reminded the court of its own nine-judge Bench judgment upholding privacy as part of the fundamental right to life under the Constitution.

The top court, the sentinel on the *qui vive* of fundamental rights, which includes the right to privacy, justified that citizens lived in an "open world", indicating that those with clear hearts and minds need not be scared of snooping.

The State defended that the question involved was not about an "open or closed world" but the basic right to be protected against illegal surveillance by the state machinery.

The court was hearing a plea for extension of police custody of former Telangana intelligence bureau chief T. Prabhakar Rao in a phone-tapping case.

The debate in the court room between the Bench, headed by Justice B.V. Nagarathna, and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Telangana, occurred during a hearing in the Telangana phone-tapping case. "The question is can it [illegal surveillance] be done? The question here is not whether a person is 'bothered' or whether he has something to hide," Mr. Mehta submitted.

The State had sought an extension of the police custody of former Telangana Special Intelligence Bureau (SIB) chief T. Prabhakar Rao, who is an accused in the case. "Now we live in an open world. Nobody is in a closed world. Nobody should be really bothered about surveillance. Why should anyone be bothered about surveillance unless they have something to hide?" Justice Nagarathna questioned.

# ED seizes cash, gold in U.S. 'donkey route' case

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has seized ₹4.68 crore in cash, gold bars worth ₹8.07 crore, and silver bars valued at about ₹6.42 crore during searches at 13 locations across Punjab, Haryana, and Delhi in connection with a money laundering investigation in the "donkey route" case linked to illegal immigration into the United States.

According to the agency, gold bars and silver bars weighing 5.9 kg and 313 kg were impounded, along with gold coins worth ₹2.7 lakh and several digital devices and documents. Over 50 original passports were also impounded.

The money laundering probe stems from multiple FIRs concerning the deportation of 330 Indian nationals to India in February 2025 by the U.S. government.

# Centre plans portal to provide all forest rights services online

**Abhinay Lakshman**
NEW DELHI

**This would be a part of FRA road map that Tribal Affairs Ministry hopes to finalise by the first half of 2026**

The Union government is developing a national web portal to try and take the entire process of forest rights recognition and management online, senior officials told *The Hindu* on Friday.

According to a presentation prepared by the Tribal Affairs Ministry, this new portal is proposed to act as a single window for all Forest Rights Act (FRA) processes, which include filing and processing of claims (from the Gram Sabhas' Forest Rights Committee to State-Level Monitoring Committees), issuing digital title deeds, storing legacy data on titles granted, and mapping potential forest areas over which FRA rights could be claimed in the future in the form of an FRA Atlas.

The Ministry's pitch came at a national consultative workshop organised by the National Tribal Research Institute in New Delhi on Friday on the challenges in implementing the 2006 Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, popularly known as the Forest Rights Act or FRA, meant to recognise generationally held and exercised rights of STs and other forest dwellers on forest land across the country.

The law recognises various rights of forest dwellers on these lands, such as individual, community, the right to use resources, habitation, etc.

On the sidelines of the workshop, senior officials said this portal would be part of the overarching FRA road map, which the Ministry was working to finalise by the first half of 2026. One of them said this was part of the government's larger plans to use FRA records to identify beneficiaries for the saturation of existing government welfare schemes.

**Beta version**

A beta version of the portal has been developed, and it is being called TARANG for the time being, an official said.

At the workshop, while Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram stressed how FRA rights were "fundamental" to ensuring sustainable livelihoods, Tribal Affairs Secretary Ranjana Chopra spoke of the need to geotag all recognised types of forest rights and called for solutions on livelihood promotion and digitising records.

Officials from various States where recognition of forest rights has been high are likely to be invited for a demonstration of the portal in January, according to government officials.

# ED attaches assets of cricketers, actors in betting app case

**Devesh K. Pandey**
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday provisionally attached movable and immovable assets valued at ₹7.93 crore belonging to former Indian cricketers Yuvraj Singh and Robin Uthappa, and five actors including Urvashi Rautela and Sonu Sood, in a money laundering case linked to an "illegal" offshore betting platform.

The properties of actor Neha Sharma, mother of actor Rautela, Bengali actors Ankush Hazra and Mimi Chakraborty have also been attached after the probe agency issued a provisional order under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). Ms. Chakraborty is also a former Member of Parliament.

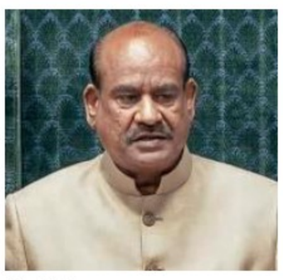
The probe is based on multiple First Information Reports registered by the police in different States against the operators of 1xBet platform. "The investigation has revealed that 1xBet and its surrogate brand 1xBat, 1xbat Sporting Lines were engaged in promoting and facilitating illegal online betting and gambling operations across India," said the agency.

According to ED, the celebrities knowingly entered into endorsement agreements with foreign entities for the promotion of 1xBet through its surrogates. These endorsements were made in return for payments routed through foreign entities to conceal the illicit origin of the funds, which are linked to Proceeds of Crime (POC) generated from illegal betting activities.

1xBet allegedly operated in India without authorisation and used surrogate branding and advertisements to target Indian users.

# Winter Session concludes with over 100% productivity

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI


Om Birla

The Winter Session of Parliament concluded on Friday as both Houses were adjourned *sine die* after the passage of key Bills, including one to replace the MGNREGA and others to allow the opening up of the civil nuclear sector for private sector and 100% FDI in Insurance.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said the Lower House recorded a productivity of 111% over 15 sittings, while Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan, who presided over his first session after taking charge, said the Upper House achieved a productivity of 121%.

The Lok Sabha passed eight Bills, and 10 government Bills were introduced.

The Lok Sabha witnessed a debate to mark 150 years of the National Song *Vande Mataram*. Prime Minister Narendra Modi initiated the discussion and the Lower House discussed the subject for 11 hours and 32 minutes, with the participation of 65 MPs. The issue of electoral reforms was also discussed for approximately 13 hours, with the participation of 63 members.

In Rajya Sabha, 82 members participated in the discussion on *Vande Mataram*. On electoral reforms, 57 members participated. The Upper House passed eight Bills and adopted a Statutory Resolution regarding the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Amendment Act, 2024, which saw overall participation of 212 MPs.

"Disruption created during yesterday's (Thursday) sitting by the Opposition members by shouting slogans, displaying placards, disrupting the Minister replying to the discussion, tearing up papers and throwing them in the Well of the House showed conduct unbecoming of MPs. I earnestly hope that members would introspect and not repeat such unruly behaviour in future," Mr. Radhakrishnan said.

# Govt. insulted Gandhi, Tagore, Nehru: Congress

Opposition party says new rural jobs Bill was introduced without any consultation, accuses the government of running away from a debate on pollution, despite adequate time being available

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh addressing a press conference in New Delhi on Friday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The government aimed to insult the three greatest icons who laid the foundation of modern India – Rabindranath Tagore, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Mahatma Gandhi – the Congress said on Friday, also slamming the Centre for skipping a debate on pollution despite persistent demands from the Opposition.

Addressing a press conference after Parliament was adjourned *sine die* on Friday, Congress general secretary and chief whip in the Rajya Sabha, Jairam Ramesh, accused the government of hoodwinking the Opposition in what was one of the shortest sessions in recent years. The Winter Session had only 15 sittings.

"We were told 14 Bills would be taken up, with two being a mere formality – on Manipur and the Supplementary Demand for Grants. Out of the remaining 12 Bills, five were not introduced. I don't know why they give this information when they don't intend to bring the Bills," Mr. Ramesh said.

"I had told Rajnath Singh at the all-party meeting that the meeting was a formality and that usually, at the end of the session, they come out with a BrahMos missile. He laughed. It happened this time as well – a Bill was brought towards the end and passed amid Opposition uproar," Mr. Ramesh said, referring to the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin), or the VB-G RAM G Bill. He said that while the MGNREGA had been passed unanimously after extensive consultations, the new legislation was brought in without holding any dialogue with stakeholders.

**'Distorting history'**

The *Vande Mataram* debate during the session was all about the government "defaming Nehru and Rabindranath Tagore" and "distorting history", Mr. Ramesh said.

"Tagore was insulted. It was on Tagore's recommendation in 1937 that the Congress Working Committee decided the first two stanzas would be sung as the National Song," he said. India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, was also insulted, he added. The session then ended with the "insult of Gandhi," he said, in an apparent reference to the passage of the G RAM G Bill that replaces MGNREGA, a UPA-era law that bore the Mahatma's name.

"PM Modi's strategy was clear: to insult the three people who built modern India," Mr. Ramesh said.

He also questioned why the government was in a rush to adjourn the session *sine die* when there was time to hold a debate on pollution. He pointed out that the Lok Sabha bulletin had listed a debate to be initiated by Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, which was not taken up. "When the time came for the debate, they adjourned the House *sine die*," he said.

Mr. Ramesh also slammed the government for claiming that there was "no conclusive data" to establish a correlation between poor Air Quality Index figures and lung diseases.

# Opposition stalled debate on pollution in Parliament: Rijiju

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Kiren Rijiju

The Union government on Friday accused the Opposition of obstructing a debate in Parliament on the issue of air pollution in the National Capital Region, and displaying "unacceptable behaviour" during the debate on the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill (VB-G RAM G), 2025.

Addressing a press conference after the conclusion of the Winter Session, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju termed it a "very productive" session. He said the laws would accelerate the reforms being brought by the Narendra Modi government to uplift the lives of common people.

"The Reform Express of the Modi government will not stop. It will speed up now. The Bills will contribute in a big way to our reform initiatives. Crores of people will be benefited, their lives will be changed, and it will be helpful in bringing all-round development in the country," he said.

However, he criticised the conduct of Opposition members during the debate on the Bill in the Lok Sabha.

Stating that the government was ready for a discussion on pollution, he said the Minister concerned prepared for the debate after the issue was listed in the names of three members - Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Kanimozhi, and Bansuri Swaraj.

"But Congress encouraged others to stage protests (on the Bill) in the Well of the House. They stalled the proceedings. I want to tell the Opposition that they won't get votes through such tactics," he said.

**Nationwide campaign**

The government is expected to launch a nationwide campaign soon to spread awareness about the benefits of the VB-G RAM G Bill. *(With PTI inputs)*

# Trinamool MPs stage overnight protest against new rural jobs Bill

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

The protest began after the Bill was passed past midnight, with MPs from the DMK, Congress, and AAP joining in. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Trinamool Congress MPs staged an overnight protest on the steps of the old Parliament building, Samvidhan Sadan, on Thursday, against the passage of the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill.

They alleged that the Bill was "bulldozed" through both Houses without debate.

The *dharna* began shortly after the Bill was passed past midnight, with MPs from the DMK, Congress, AAP, and other parties joining in. The DMK's Tiruchi Siva, Congress MPs Jebi Mather, Naseer Hussain, Imran Pratapgarhi, Shakti Singh Gohil, and the AAP's Sandeep Pathak, participated in the protest in the early hours of Friday, while Trinamool MPs stayed through the night.

**'Attack on rural poor'**

Sagarika Ghose, the Trinamool's Deputy Leader in the Rajya Sabha, said the protest was against the "destruction" of the MGNREGA.

"By destroying the NREGA, the government has attacked the rural poor. The Modi government has assassinated Mahatma Gandhi for the second time and insulted Rabindranath Tagore [who gave Gandhi the title of Mahatma]," she said.

# Police deny permission to NREGA activists for Jantar Mantar protest

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

**Growing dissent:** Activist Jean Dreze and others protesting at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Friday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The Delhi Police denied permission for a protest planned by the NREGA Sangarsh Morcha, a consortium of civil society groups working with rural workers, at Jantar Mantar on Friday, citing "existing guidelines" that require applications seeking permission for a protest to be filed 10 days ahead.

The group wanted to protest against the replacement of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. Nevertheless, the activists and MPs gathered at Jantar Mantar for a few minutes on Friday, in a symbolic gesture to register their dissent. Activists, including economist Jean Dreze, Rajendran Narayanan, and Mukesh, were joined by MPs Sasikanth Senthil of the Congress, S. Murasoli and Thanga Tamil Selvan of the DMK, Bikash Bhattacharya of the CPI(M), and Raja Ram Singh of the CPI (ML) Liberation.

"A 20-year-old law was repealed in two days but to carry out a protest, we were told we needed to give 10 days' notice," Mr. Narayanan said.

Mr. Dreze, who was one of the key authors of MGNREGA, called the new legislation a "bulldozer Bill". All the orders and notifications built under the MNREGA will go, Mr. Dreze said.

# Modi, Priyanka share cordial conversation at meet over tea

**The Hindu Bureau**
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra interacts with Speaker Om Birla, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and other leaders. ANI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra shared a cordial exchange during the customary tea hosted by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday, following the conclusion of the Winter Session of Parliament. The interaction stood out against previous sessions when Opposition parties often boycotted the event.

Sources said Ms. Gandhi, the Congress MP from Wayanad, told the Prime Minister that she was learning Malayalam to better connect with her constituents. She also asked him about his recent three-nation tour to Africa and the Middle East. Mr. Modi reportedly said that Ethiopia's progress was far ahead of common perceptions in India, both socially and economically.

When Samajwadi Party leader Dharmendra Yadav remarked that the Winter Session was among the shortest, Mr. Modi quipped that it was good for his throat as he "didn't have to shout for too many days", drawing laughter from those present.

**Expression of Interest (EOI)**

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM TECHNOPARK HARMONY@WORK
kerala IT EMPOWERING THE FUTURE

**EOI No. 240/2025**

Expression of Interest are invited for **"Selection of a Co-Developer to construct and operate an IT building & Commercial Building under QUAD Project in Technopark Phase IV (Technocity) Campus, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala"**.

The last date of submission of EOI is **05.01.2026**.

For further details, please visit **https://www.technopark.in/tenders**

**Date: 19.12.2025** **Chief Executive Officer**
**Trivandrum** **D3/910/2025/I&PRD** **Technopark**

**TAMIL NADU FOREST DEPARTMENT**
**KODAIKANAL FOREST DIVISION, KODAIKANAL.**

**e-TENDER cum e-AUCTION NOTICE**

**Ref.No.8113/2024/L** **Dated:15.12.2025**

An e-Tender cum e-Auction of 21 Wattle Plantations (Mannavannur, Kodaikanal & Berijam ranges each 6 bits, and Poombarai range 3 bits), 06 Bluegum Plantations (Mannavannur range 2 bits, Kodaikanal range 1 bit & Berijam range 3 bits) and already removed 10.00 ha. of cut materials of wattle wood, bark & firewood (Mannavannur range) is scheduled to be conducted on 05.01.2026 **(Mannavannur plantation)**, 06.01.2026 **(Kodaikanal plantation)**, 07.01.2026 **(Berijam plantation)** and 08.01.2026 **(Poombarai plantation) in "MSTC ecommerce"** portal. For the detailed notice, please visit **https://www.mstcecommerce.com** (or) Contact Kodaikanal Forest Division office at Ph.No. 04542-240287 during office working hours (or) through e-mail **kodaidfo@gmail.com**.

**District Forest Officer & Wildlife Warden,**
Kodaikanal Forest Division.

DIPR / **1487** / Display / 2025

**OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, PHED, REGION AJMER**
**Telephone No. 0145-2628475** **Fax No. 0145-2970247**
e-mail : aceregionajmer@gmail.com
No. F()/Ar.MP/2025-2026/15403-15407 Date: 15/12/2025

**CORRIGENDUM-1**
**(NIT No. 18/2025-2026)**

In continuation to this office NIT No. 18/2025-2026, issued vide this office Letter No. 14032-14081 dated 19.11.2025 for the work of **"Augmentation of Piped water supply scheme of 20 Villages in submergence Area of Bisalpur Dam under Division Tonk, District Tonk including 05 years O&M after 01 year Defect Liability Period under CM BUDGET ANNOUNCEMENT 2025-26; Estimated Cost Rs. 1714.68 Lakh)"**, following amendments are hereby notified:

| As per Published Information | Now amended as |
|---|---|
| Following bids are invited from interested bidders up to15.12.2025 Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. | Following bids are invited from interested bidders up to 31.12.2025 Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state. |

All other terms, conditions and stipulations of the original NIT shall remain unchanged.

UBN No. PHE2526WLOB08750 **(Ram Chandra Rar)**
RO No. 17214 dated 24.11.2025 **Addl. Chief Engineer**
**DIPR/C/18677/2025** **PHED, Region, Ajmer**

**KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD**
**(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)**
**Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,**
**(Telephone No. 0471-2945600, 2945646)**
**E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,**
**website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616**

**No.KMSCL/ED/36/2025** **Date :18.12.2025**

**E-TENDER NOTICE**

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement Biolarvicide: Bacillus Thuringiensis Israeliensis (BTI) for NVBDCP.

| Sl. No. | Tender No. and Date | No. of items |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | KMSCL/ED/BTI-NVBDCP/RC/2025/032 dtd. 18/12/2025 | 1 |

The last date and time of online uploading of tenders will be 01.01.2026, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 03.01.2026 11.00 am. Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.

**(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR** (Tender Inviting Authority)

*Now reading:*
**News that can't be bot.**

Since 1878

Written by
**JOURNALISTS**
*Print | Web | App*

A BG-BGE

## INBRIEF

### SC seeks U.P.'s response to advocate's assault allegations

The Supreme Court on Friday sought responses from the Centre, the Uttar Pradesh government, and the police on a plea filed by a woman advocate alleging illegal detention, custodial sexual assault, and coercion at a police station in Noida while she was discharging her professional duties. A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and N.V. Anjaria also directed the Commissioner of Police of Gautam Buddha Nagar district to ensure that CCTV footage from the police station for the relevant period is preserved. Appearing for the petitioner, senior advocate Vikas Singh urged the Bench to direct that CCTV footage be seized forthwith to prevent possible tampering.

### Six killed as water tank collapses at factory in Nagpur

Six persons were killed and nine injured after a water tank collapsed at an industrial unit on the outskirts of Nagpur city on Friday, a police official said. The incident occurred at Avaada Electro Private Limited, a solar panel manufacturing factory located in MIDC Butibori area, the official said. While three persons died at the time of the incident after getting trapped under the debris, three others who were rushed to hospital also succumbed to injuries, he informed. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said the State government would give ex gratia of ₹5 lakh each to the kin of the deceased. In addition, the company has agreed to pay ₹30 lakh each to the families of those who lost their lives. PTI

# Child trafficking a deeply disturbing reality, says SC

SC judgment emphasises that courts must not disbelieve the testimony of a trafficked child just because of minor inconsistencies in her evidence; says she must be treated as an injured witness

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, in a judgment on Friday, observed that child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children by organised cartels is a "deeply disturbing reality" in India which continues to flourish despite protective laws.

The court said child trafficking networks have a complex and layered structure which operate at various levels of recruiting, transporting, harbouring, and exploiting minor victims.

The judgment, which laid down guidelines for appreciating evidence in child trafficking cases, said courts must not disbelieve the testimony of a trafficked child just because of minor inconsistencies in her evidence.

"Such organised crime activities operate as apparently independent verticals whose insidious intersections are conveniently veiled through subterfuge and deception to hoodwink innocent victims," a Bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Joymalya Bagchi said.

A victim's sole testimony must suffice if her version appeared to be credible and convincing. A trafficked child must not be treated as an accomplice by the courts. "Her deposition is to be given due regard and credence as that of an injured witness," the court directed.

Justice Bagchi, who authored the judgment, termed child trafficking and sexual exploitation as an offence that struck at the very foundations of dignity and bodily integrity.

The judgment concerned a minor who was forcibly pushed into illicit sexual intercourse by a gang of traffickers in Bengaluru. Her persistent refusal to consent had led her to be confined in a rental apartment, until she was rescued by the police in November 2010.

The top court, while upholding the conviction of the gang members under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, said the case laid bare the "moral and material abandonment" of a child whom the state was constitutionally obliged to protect from harm's way.

Justice Bagchi said courts must not discard a trafficked victim's version as improbable or "against ordinary human conduct" solely on the ground of her failure to promptly protest against the "ostensibly innocuous yet ominous agenda of the trafficker".

"Diffused and apparently disjoint manner in which the crime verticals operate in areas of recruitment, transportation, harbouring and exploitation make it difficult, if not impossible, for the victim to narrate with precision and clarity the interplay of these processes...," Justice Bagchi observed.

**Recognise vulnerability**

In the present case, the victim's testimony about the topography of the rented apartment was rebutted by two prosecution witnesses, prompting the defence to attempt to discredit her evidence.

The Bench underscored that courts must bear in mind, while examining a victim, her "inherent socio-economic and, at times, cultural vulnerability when the minor belongs to a marginalised or socially and culturally backward community".

Judicial appreciation of the victim's evidence must be marked by sensitivity and realism, it said.

# WHO meet boosts collaboration on global health: PM

**Bindu Shajan Perappadan**
NEW DELHI

The second WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine facilitated dialogues among Health Ministers and representatives of various countries, opening up new avenues for promoting joint research, simplifying regulations, and advancing training and knowledge sharing, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the closing ceremony of the summit at Bharat Mandapam here on Friday.

He said that over the past three days, experts in the field of traditional medicine from across the world engaged in serious and meaningful discussions. "It is India's privilege and a matter of pride that the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine has been established in Jamnagar," said the Prime Minister.

**Digital technology**

He said the summit gave an opportunity to showcase digital health technology, AI-based tools, research innovations, and modern wellness infrastructure, which together showed a new collaboration between tradition and technology.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus.

"When tradition and technology come together, the capacity to make global health more effective increases significantly, and therefore the success of this summit holds great importance from a global perspective," he said.

He highlighted the launch of the Traditional Medicine Global Library as an international platform aimed at preserving scientific data and policy documents related to traditional medicine in one place.

Emphasising India's focus on "partnerships of healing" globally, Mr. Modi shared two key collaborations: the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for BIMSTEC countries, covering South and South-East Asia, and a collaboration with Japan aimed at integrating science, traditional practices, and health.

# Corporates have fundamental duty to protect the ecosystem, asserts SC

**Krishnadas Rajagopal**
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Friday interpreted 'corporate social responsibility' or CSR to inherently include environmental responsibility, holding that the legal person of a corporation has a fundamental duty to protect the environment as a key organ of society.

"The corporate duty must evolve from merely protecting the shareholders to protecting the ecosystem that we all inhabit. Therefore, the corporate definition of 'social responsibility' must inherently include 'environmental responsibility'," a Bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Atul S. Chandurkar held in a judgment.

The judgment was based on petitions highlighting the cause of a near-extinct bird species – the

The judgment was in response to petitions on risks faced by the Great Indian Bustard.

Great Indian Bustard, "one of the heaviest flying birds in the world and a flagship species of the arid and semi-arid grasslands of the Indian subcontinent", primarily located in and around the Great Thar desert.

The court brought companies under the ambit of Article 51A(g) of the Constitution, which imposes a fundamental duty on every citizen "to protect and improve the natural environment including forests, lakes, rivers and wildlife, and to have compassion for living creatures".

"Companies cannot assert to be socially responsible while ignoring equal claims of the environment and other beings of the ecosystem...," Justice Narasimha, who authored the judgment, reasoned.

The court explained that allocation of CSR funds by companies for the protection of the environment cannot be seen as "a voluntary act of charity", but a fulfilment of a Constitutional obligation.

**Shared environment**

"The obligation to protect endangered species is paramount... Where corporate activities such as mining, power generation, or infrastructure threaten the habitat of endangered species, the 'polluter pays' principle mandates that the company bears the cost of species recovery. CSR funds must, therefore, be directed towards ex-situ and in-situ conservation efforts to prevent extinction," the court said.

Non-renewable power generators operating near the habitats of the Great Indian Bustard in Rajasthan and Gujarat must always remember that they share the environment with the bird and must undertake their activities as if they were "guests in its abode", Justice Narasimha said.

The court also upheld an expert committee's recommendations to revise the priority areas to 14,013 sq. km and 740 sq km for Rajasthan and Gujarat, respectively.

# Centre revises guidelines to help poor prisoners unable to pay fines

**S. Vijay Kumar**
CHENNAI

Citing a "sub-optimal" response from several States and Union Territories in implementing the 'Support to Poor Prisoners' scheme, the Union Home Ministry has revised its guidelines, introducing fixed timelines and mandating the involvement of senior officials.

Launched in 2023, the scheme seeks to provide financial assistance to indigent prisoners whose release was stalled solely due to their inability to pay court-imposed fines or furnish bail sureties.

In an advisory, the Ministry noted that implementation across many States and Union Territories had been inadequate, thereby undermining the scheme's core objective. The Ministry issued revised guidelines aimed at strengthening institutional mechanisms and ensuring swift and effective execution.

Home Ministry said the scheme would alleviate hardships faced by poor prisoners.

Urging the States and Union Territories to implement the scheme in letter and spirit, the Ministry said it had the potential not only to alleviate the hardships faced by poor prisoners but also help reduce overcrowding in prisons.

Under the revised framework, the district-level Empowered Committee tasked with scrutinising and approving eligible cases would include a nominee of the District Collector and the judge in-charge of the prison concerned, nominated by the District Judge.

Going by the revised guidelines, when a convicted prisoner is unable to secure release due to non-payment of a fine, the Jail Superintendent must inform the Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) within a week. After verifying the prisoner's financial status, the DLSA Secretary will recommend the case to the Empowered Committee, which may sanction a financial assistance of up to ₹25,000 to be deposited with the court to facilitate the prisoner's release. Similar provisions apply to eligible undertrial prisoners.

**Not all to benefit**

However, the scheme excludes persons accused of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, Prevention of Money Laundering Act, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and any other laws that may be notified later.

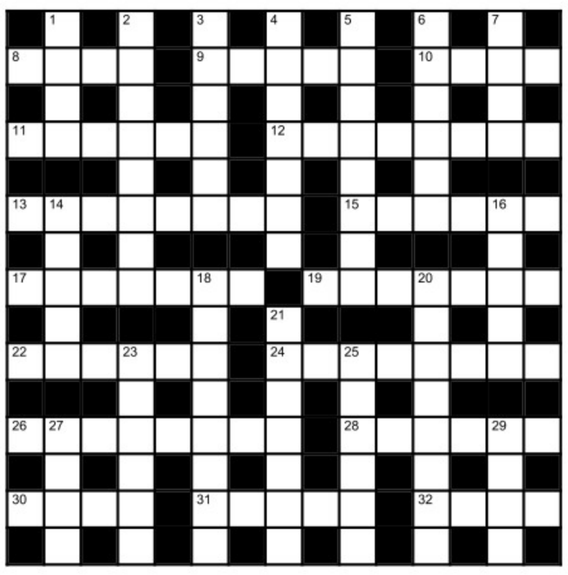
The benefit is also denied to those accused of heinous crimes, including acts of terrorism, offences affecting national security, dowry deaths, rape, human trafficking, and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

## TH CROSSWORD + 14670

(set by Incognito)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



**Across**

**8** Animal gets large covering for head (4)
**9** Female eats horribly in celebratory meal (5)
**10** On retirement, Oprah loses love for instrument (4)
**11** Ram's cooking medium? (6)
**12** Animal after Virginia and daughter ran away (8)
**13** Loads wood in ship and sleeps (8)
**15** Disinter old ornithologist who founded a political party (6)
**17** Stiff curved structure in pig-pen (7)
**19** Eastern Lake Street's most spooky point (7)
**22** Boy with aged queen is more brave (6)
**24** In novel, Romeo is followed by tailless cat in New York neighbourhood (8)
**26** Lends posters covering American vice-president (8)
**28** Model and charming lady's tic (6)
**30** Prohibit new building in farm (4)
**31** Don's deception (3-2)
**32** Valley in jungle notified (4)

**Down**

**1** Protein rich food made out of mixture without using egg (4)
**2** Veteran's grand-father clock, for example (3-5)
**3** Girl in favour of church's mass-specific strength (1-5)
**4** Horribly starve husband first and collect produce (7)
**5** A public representative follows saint with extraordinarily diverse entourage at first resulting in mad rush (8)
**6** Sound of wind from show organised covers head office (6)
**7** Large woody plant in street (4)
**14** Plenty to put together... Bingo! (5)
**16** I hear sportsman is unorganised (5)
**18** Hardy cop produces printout (4,4)
**20** Slinking around? Results in suspicions... (8)
**21** Crazy boy consuming eggs sautéed in tallow for starters results in extreme stoutness (7)
**23** Channels for carrying water from precipitation in key streets at last (6)
**25** Making a choice and operating without time (6)
**27** Sketch tie (4)
**29** Cook some lunch effortlessly (4)

## SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5 | | | 8 | 3 | | 9 | |
| | | 3 | | | | | | 5 |
| 2 | 4 | | | | | 3 | 8 | |
| | | 5 | 1 | | | | 3 | |
| | | 4 | 8 | | 2 | 7 | | |
| | 2 | | | | 9 | 6 | | |
| | 7 | 9 | | | | | 2 | 4 |
| 4 | | | | | | 8 | | |
| | 8 | | 2 | 7 | | | 6 | |

No.SS6736 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

**Solution to previous puzzle**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | E | G | I | M | E | N | T | | S | E | R | B | I | A |
| U | | R | | A | | O | | D | | N | | A | | N |
| S | C | A | R | L | E | T | | O | B | S | E | R | V | E |
| T | | T | | I | | O | | W | | U | | C | | C |
| L | Y | I | N | G | | N | O | N | C | E | W | O | R | D |
| E | | S | | N | | Y | | I | | | | D | | O |
| | | | D | E | N | O | U | N | C | E | M | E | N | T |
| S | | W | | R | | U | | T | | N | | S | | E |
| T | R | E | A | S | U | R | E | H | U | N | T | | | |
| E | | T | | | | N | | E | | O | | I | | G |
| A | D | N | A | U | S | E | A | M | | B | E | N | I | N |
| R | | U | | P | | L | | O | | L | | D | | O |
| A | E | R | O | S | O | L | | U | N | I | F | I | E | S |
| T | | S | | E | | Y | | T | | N | | G | | I |
| E | V | E | N | T | S | | C | H | I | G | N | O | N | S |

**Solution to yesterday's Sudoku**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 8 | 3 |
| 7 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 2 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 6 |
| 4 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 5 |
| 1 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 9 |
| 3 | 5 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 7 |
| 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 8 |
| 8 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| 9 | 7 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 |

## FAITH

### Kumaravayalur Murugan

Vayalur, near Tiruchi in Tamil Nadu, has a famous Murugan temple, said Desa Mangayarkkarasi in a discourse. A field is known as '*vayal*' in Tamil. Because this place is in the midst of agricultural fields, it is called Vayalur. There are many other villages known as Vayalur. But this village near Tiruchi is called Adi Vayalur. It is also known as Kumaravayalur, because Murugan worshipped His father Lord Siva here.

When Murugan arrived in Vayalur, He wanted a pond to bathe in. Even if one has had a regular bath in the morning, one should bathe again before worshipping Siva. In keeping with this rule, Murugan wanted to bathe. Because there was no sacred tirtha in the place, He created one with His spear. The water tank came to be called Sakti tirtha. One gets jnana if one bathes in this water. People visiting the temple should ensure that their children take a dip in the tank, so that they gain knowledge. Murugan is seen here with both His Consorts – Deivanai and Valli. The Vinayaka here is known as Poyyaa Ganapathi. It is customary to begin any work with praise of Vinayaka. But Arunagirinatha had begun his Tiruppugazh with praise of Murugan. Murugan of Vayalur appeared before Arunagirinatha and summoned him to Vayalur. When Arunagirinatha entered the Vayalur temple, he first sang in praise of Poyyaa Ganapathi, to make up for his earlier omission. And then Arunagirinatha sang the rest of the Tiruppugazh. Scholar Kripanandavariar spearheaded renovation efforts in the Vayalur temple. Although he carried out renovations in many temples, this was his first effort, and earned him the title of Thiruppani Chakravarthi.

## INBRIEF

### Adani to invest ₹1 lakh cr. in airports over next five years

Adani Group plans to invest ₹1 lakh crore in its airports business over the next five years, betting on sustained growth in India's aviation sector, which is expected to expand at 15-16% annually, a top group official said. "On the airport side, ₹1-lakh crore in the next five years," Jeet Adani, Director of Adani Airports, told PTI ahead of the start of commercial operations at Navi Mumbai International Airport on December 25.

### Ather enters auto insurance to strengthen EV ownership

Electric two-wheeler maker Ather Energy on Friday announced its entry into the auto insurance distribution space with the launch of a wholly-owned subsidiary to offer vehicle insurance services to its growing customer base. The new entity, which will operate as a Corporate Agent, will focus on offering auto insurance policies in partnership with multiple insurers for its customers across the country, the Bengaluru-based EV maker, said. PTI

### Piramal Finance sell entire stake in Shriram Life to Sanlam

Piramal Finance on Friday said it has decided to sell its entire 14.72% stake in Shriram Life Insurance Company to South Africa-based Sanlam Group for ₹600 crore. Sanlam Group is the foreign partner in the insurance venture with Shriram Finance. A share purchase agreement between Piramal Finance and Sanlam Emerging Markets (Mauritius) Limited in this regard was signed on Friday. The transaction is expected to close in the quarter ending March 31, 2026. PTI

# 'Too low an inflation a cause for concern'

Prevailing low inflation will squeeze profit margins, increase real value of debt and interest rates for private sector, says MPC's external member

**Lalatendu Mishra**
MUMBAI

**Dribbling down:** Headline CPI declined further to 0.3% in October 2025, largely driven by decreasing food prices. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Although low inflation rate and high growth led the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to reduce repo rate by 25 basis points (bps) earlier this month to support growth, the drastic fall in inflation numbers remained a cause for concern, the minutes of the MPC released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday indicate.

"The current inflation rate is actually too low, breaching the lower bound in the flexible inflation targeting regime, especially if precious metals like gold are excluded. Besides, too low an inflation rate is not healthy for a developing country like India, suggesting a demand deficit," external MPC member Nagesh Kumar wrote.

He said inflation not only continued to remain benign, the headline CPI too declined further to 0.3% in October 2025, largely driven by decreasing food prices. "It is in contrast to FY25: Q2, when the growth was slowing, but inflation was at relatively high levels," he pointed out.

Stating that inflation had continued to undershoot forecasts, external MPC member Saugata Bhattacharya said while the low prints had largely emanated from a small set of components, the broader basket of "underlying" inflation too was likely to undershoot the inflation target for many months.

"In addition, there is little to signal a risk of potential overheating of capacity even if growth momentum were to sustain. Household inflation expectations remain well anchored and have responded to the recent sharp drop in inflation," he stated.

External member Prof. Ram Singh said in his statement that the prevailing low inflation would squeeze profit margins and increase the real value of debt and interest rates for the private sector.

"Disinflationary expectations running across several quarters can dampen and defer private-sector investment even in the short run. As MSMEs' businesses operate in highly competitive markets and have limited ability to raise prices through the market power channel but the wages tend to be downward sticky, low inflation is detrimental to their interests as well," he emphasised.

Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta stated that inflation had been below the 4% target for the last nine months averaging 2.3% and was likely to remain well contained for at least nine more months. "The average inflation for 2025-26 is projected to be 2.0%, down by 60 bps from the October policy.

The most crucial recent development from the perspective of monetary policy has been the faster than anticipated moderation in CPI headline inflation," she wrote. "Going ahead, good agricultural production, low food prices and exceptionally benign international commodity price outlook suggest that headline inflation for the full year (2025-26) is likely to be around 2%, half of what was projected at the beginning of the year, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra wrote in his statement.

# RBI Board approves risk-based deposit insurance for banks

**The Hindu Bureau**
HYDERABAD

In October, the RBI had proposed a risk-based premium model.

The Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved a risk-based deposit insurance framework for banks at its meeting in Hyderabad on Friday.

The approval follows the Central Bank's statement in October, in which it had proposed a risk-based premium model.

Mooted as an alternative to the existing flat rate premium-based deposit insurance scheme, the framework is expected to help banks that are more sound financially to save significantly on the premium paid. Detailed notification will be issued shortly and the framework will be effective from next financial year, RBI had then said.

# China requests WTO consultations with India over ICT tariffs

**Press Trust of India**
BEIJING

China on Friday filed a petition with the World Trade Organisation (WTO), requesting consultations with India over New Delhi's tariffs on information and communication technology (ICT) products and solar sector subsidies.

A statement issued by the spokesman of the Ministry of Commerce here said India's measures allegedly violate multiple WTO obligations, including the principle of national treatment, and constitute import substitution subsidies explicitly prohibited under WTO rules.

**'Unfair advantages'**

"They grant unfair competitive advantages to India's domestic industries while undermining China's interests," the statement said. It urged India to honour its WTO commitments and promptly adjust these measures.

This is the second petition filed by China at the WTO against India this year.

## MARKETS

### MARKET WATCH

| | FRIDAY | % CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Sensex | 84,929 | 0.53 |
| US Dollar | 89.67 | 0.58 |
| Brent oil | 60.00 | -0.38 |

### NIFTY 50

| | PRICE | CHANGE |
|---|---|---|
| Adani Enter | 2239.00 | 9.70 |
| Adani Ports | 1496.40 | 0.70 |
| Apollo Hosp | 7012.50 | 94.00 |
| Asian Paints | 2799.90 | 40.20 |
| Axis Bank | 1230.60 | 0.80 |
| Bajaj Auto | 9002.00 | 171.00 |
| Bajaj Finserv | 2043.80 | 17.50 |
| Bajaj Finance | 1008.30 | 8.00 |
| Bharat Elec | 392.85 | 9.40 |
| Bharti Airtel | 2097.70 | 5.70 |
| Cipla | 1517.10 | 18.20 |
| Coal India | 385.60 | 0.30 |
| Dr Reddys Lab | 1278.20 | -1.80 |
| Hindustan Unilever | 40.20 | 0.00 |
| Eicher Motors | 7217.00 | 110.50 |
| Eternal Ltd. | 286.05 | 1.30 |
| Grasim Ind | 2812.50 | 4.90 |
| HCL Tech | 1642.40 | -19.00 |
| HDFC Bank | 985.50 | 5.80 |
| HDFC Life | 766.45 | 9.45 |
| Hindalco | 852.00 | -4.70 |
| Hind Unilever | 2280.00 | 14.50 |
| ICICI Bank | 1354.10 | -2.70 |
| IntGlobeAvi | 5153.50 | 38.00 |
| Infosys | 1638.70 | 11.90 |
| ITC | 401.05 | 0.65 |
| Jio Financial Services Ltd. | 296.95 | 4.65 |
| JSW Steel | 1079.60 | -2.60 |
| Kotak Bank | 2159.50 | -5.10 |
| L&T | 4073.50 | 42.40 |
| M&M | 3603.60 | 17.00 |
| Maruti Suzuki | 16414.00 | 85.00 |
| Max Healthcare | 1075.80 | 27.30 |
| NestleIndia | 1244.40 | 10.90 |
| NTPC | 319.90 | 1.40 |
| ONGC | 232.89 | 0.89 |
| PowerGrid Corp | 263.45 | 5.50 |
| Reliance Ind | 1565.10 | 20.70 |
| SBI Life | 2028.40 | 14.00 |
| State Bank | 980.30 | 2.75 |
| Shriram Finance Ltd. | 901.70 | 32.25 |
| Sun Pharma | 1744.90 | -1.00 |
| TataConsumerProduct | 1184.00 | 12.50 |
| Tata Steel | 168.69 | 0.57 |
| TCS | 3282.00 | 1.20 |
| Tech Mahindra | 1612.50 | 6.90 |
| Titan | 3930.10 | 10.80 |
| Tata Motors PV | 352.65 | 6.85 |
| Trent Ltd. | 4062.20 | 32.20 |
| UltraTech Cement | 11496.00 | 35.00 |
| Wipro | 264.45 | 0.60 |

### Flipkart buys majority stake in Minivet AI

Flipkart said it has acquired a majority stake in Minivet AI, an AI and Machine Learning solutions provider, to drive GenAI-led ecomm innovation. PTI

# Advance tax growth slows to 4.3% after third instalment, data show

**Shishir Sinha**
NEW DELHI

Tax cuts could have led to a drop in collections.

Advance tax collection at the end of the third installment during the current fiscal recorded a muted growth of a little over 4%, data by Income Tax Department showed on Friday. Last year, the growth rate was about 21%.

With this trend, there is a possibility net direct tax collection would be lower than Budget estimates, though government sources were hopeful of meeting the ₹25.20 lakh crore goal (including Securities Transaction Tax) with strong final-quarter collections.

Data showed while advance tax by corporate assessees increased by about 8% to over ₹6.07 lakh crore, collection from non-corporate tax (NCT) assessees declined by about 6.5%, reaching over ₹1.81 lakh crore. NCT includes taxes paid by individuals, HUFs, firms, AoPs, BoIs, local authorities and artificial juridical person.

**Tax cut a reason?**

Though the tax department has not given any reason for muted growth in advance tax collection, experts attribute it to tax cut announced in the Budget along with GST rate cut which may have impacted corporate profitability.

Overall net direct tax collection (gross minus refund) during April 1 and December 17 reached over ₹17.04 lakh crore which is 8% higher than over ₹15.78 lakh crore collected during the corresponding period of the last fiscal.

This is the second successive month when the refunds have witnessed a contraction.

**Overall collection rises**

Rohinton Sidhwa, partner at Deloitte India, said tax refund issuance dropped much below last year's numbers while overall tax collection had grown marginally at 4%. The drop in refunds is being attributed to higher amount of screening of fraudulent refund claims. Holding back of refunds also accelerates litigation that the tax department can ill afford.

"Corporate advance tax increase signals good corporate earnings. Non-corporate advance tax collections have, however, declined possibly on the back of rate cuts for individuals given in previous Budget," he said.

In the Budget Estimate (BE) of Fiscal Year 2025-26, corporation tax is estimated at ₹10.82 lakh crore (indicating a growth of 10.4% over RE 2024- 25).

*(The writer is with The Hindu Businessline)*

# SAT refuses interim relief to finfluencer Avadhut Sathe

**The Hindu Bureau**
MUMBAI

Avadhut Sathe

The Securities and Appellate Tribunal (SAT) refused to grant interim relief sought by Avadhut Sathe Trading Academy Pvt. Ltd., a firm, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has charged with running an unregistered investment advisory operation and sought penalties of about ₹546 crore.

The Bench headed by Justice P. S. Dinesh Kumar admitted the appeal filed by Avadhut Sathe and issued notices to SEBI for response in six weeks and posted the case for further hearing to January 9.

However, the SAT directed Avadhut Sathe be permitted to withdraw ₹2.25 crore from banks the firm deals with for "this month's" expenses, while the appellants pleaded for a withdrawal of ₹5.25 crore

Senior counsel Janak Dwarakdas, appearing for Mr. Sathe, sought a stay on the market regulator's interim order seeking to transfer ₹546 crore of "unlawful gains" to SEBI.

SEBI barred Mr. Sathe and Gouri Avadhut Sathe from providing financial advice on market investment without registration, using live market data.

**Exaggerated profit**

Mr. Sathe used live market data, promised exaggerated profitability and provided investment advice through WhatsApp groups to his participants, SEBI said in its interim order.

The unlawful gains from such activities were to the tune of ₹546 crore, which the SEBI ordered Mr. Sathe to deposit as penalty.

# Airtel board okays 'call' of ₹401.25 in rights issue

**Press Trust of India**
NEW DELHI

The board of telecom operator Bharti Airtel has approved the 'first and final call' of ₹401.25 per share on 39.2 crore partly-paid-up equity shares, that form more than ₹15,700 crore portion of the remaining rights issue.

The proceeds will be used primarily for pre-payment/repayment of borrowings and general corporate purposes. With this, and along with organic cash generation, the firm's India operations are expected to become effectively net debt-free.

**Dr. NTR UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES: A.P.: VIJAYAWADA-8**

**NOTIFICATION**

**Entrance Test for Admission into M.Phil.(Clinical Psychology) and Professional Diploma in Clinical Psychology Courses for the Year 2025-26**

Applications **through online** are invited from the eligible candidates for Entrance Test for admission into M.Phil.(Clinical Psychology) and Professional Diploma in Clinical Psychology Courses for the academic year 2025-26 for the seats in INDLAS Hospital, Vijayawada affiliated to Dr. NTR UHS from 11.00 A.M. on 22-12-2025 upto 04.00 P.M. on 12-01-2026. The Entrance Test will be held on **01-02-2026 at Vijayawada.**

For all details, please refer detailed notification and Prospectus/Regulations available in the University **website: http://drntr.uhsap.in**

(ENDT No.4167/MPHILCP/EA1/2025) Sd/- (Dr.V.RADHIKA REDDY)
DATE: 19-12-2025, VIJAYAWADA. REGISTRAR

**GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH**
**SAMAGRA SHIKSHA, AMARAVATI**

Tenders are invited through e-procurement platform for supply of Student Kit items under "**Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidyarthi Mitra**" (SRKVM-II) vide Tender Notice NIT No. 01/2025 to 27/2025, Dt.19.12.2025 in Samagra Shiksha, Amaravati at Patamata, Vijayawada for 27 works in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
Tenders Down loading Starts from : **20.12.2025** after **10.30AM**
Last date for receipt of Tenders : **09.01.2026** up to **05.00 PM**
Note: Further details can be viewed at **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** or contact +919154294118.

Sd/- B. SRINIVASA RAO, I.A.S.,
DIPR 4689PP/CL, Dt: 19/12/2025 STATE PROJECT DIRECTOR, APSS, AMARAVATI

**TNPL TAMIL NADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED**
Kagitha Nagar, Mondipatti - 621 306,
Trichy Dist, Tamil Nadu.

**TNPL Unit-II Invites Tender for Sale of Wood Dust from TNPL Unit - II on Six Months Rate Contract / "as is where is" basis.**

| Tender No. | Description | Due date |
|---|---|---|
| TNPL/DIS/U2/82025036 | Wood Dust | 30.12.2025 |

Corrigendum if any will be issued through NIC Portal only. For further details, please visit website : **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/6732/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

**Indian Overseas Bank**
**ASSET RECOVERY MANAGEMENT BRANCH**
3rd Floor, Annexe Building, 763, Annasalai, Central Office, Chennai - 600 002
Ph: 044-2854 9143 (GEN) 2842 0262 (AGM) E-mail: iob1535@iob.in

**PRIME HOTEL / COMMERCIAL PROPERTY at PUDUCHERRY E-AUCTION SALE**

**Door Nos. 152 and 154, Maraimalaiadigal Salai, Orleanpet, Puducherry (165 km from CHENNAI)**
**with good Road Frontage and available** for sale under SARFEASI Act e-auction
This property is near to Puduchery Transport Terminal Bus stand.

**Total Land measuring 35120 Sq.ft (Appx. 80 cents) along with all Hotel / Commercial Building / Shops & frontage on Maraimalaiadigal Salai as well as Subbiah Salai**

**This building was earlier known as Hotel MASS and ideal for 3/4/5 Star Hotels or conversion to Hospitals/Commercial Complex.**

**PHYSICAL POSSESSION** Order under Sarfaesi Act 13 (4) is available from Hon'ble CJM,Puducherry and pending for execution.

**Reserve Price ₹ 53,42,00,000/-** Property Id- IOBAVEEPEE01 Auction Id - 212956

**e-auction through the service provider: baanknet.com**

Last Date & Time for EMD remittance and submission of online tender: **24.12.2025 before 10.30 a.m**

**DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 24.12.2025 between 10.30 a.m and 12.30 p.m**

Contact Authorized Officer | Mr. Abhay Kardam : 87553 64735 | Mr. Vinuraj M P : 99434 85875

**Government Of Rajasthan**
**Office Of The Principal & Controller Medical College, Barmer**
Mail Id- principal.mc.barmer@rajasthan.gov.in

Sr. No.: GMC/STORE/BARMER/2025/1710 Date: 12/12/2025

**Notice Inviting Bid No: 04/2025-26**

Bids for Rate Contract for Supply of Manpower on Job Basis (including machinery, material and supervision) in the complete premises of Government Medical College Attached Hospital Barmer are invited from interested bidders upto 06:00 PM 22-12-2025. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.
**UBN No. - MES2526SLRC0151**

(Dr. Anoop Sing Gurjar)
Principal & Controller
DIPR/C/18598/2025 Government Medical College, Barmer

**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, TIRUPATI**
(An Autonomous Institute of National Importance under Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

**RECRUITMENT FOR VARIOUS NON-FACULTY POSTS**

IISER Tirupati invites online applications from Indian nationals having an excellent academic record and relevant work experience for various Non-Faculty posts on a regular basis.
For detailed advertisement, please visit **www.iisertirupati.ac.in >> Careers >> Administration".**
The last date for submission of online applications is **17.00 Hrs. on February 02, 2026.**

Advt.No. 24/2025/IISER-T/Rect./20.12.2025 Sd/- Registrar (i/c)

**कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग कोटा**
क्रमांक - 3193 दिनांक 11.12.2025
**निविदा सूचना संख्या 39 / पीएमजीएसवाई (जनमन) / 2025-26**
**NIB No.PWD2526A4696**

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से प्रधानमंत्री जनजाति आदिवासी नयाया महा अभियान (PM-JANMAN) के योजनान्तर्गत स्वीकृत नयी सड़कों का निर्माण कार्य के निम्नलिखित कार्यो मय पांच साल की मरम्मत के लिए 2 पैकेज हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग /रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रकिया से ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in व http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है पैकेजवाईज यू.बी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है:-

**UBN No. 1. PWD2526WSOB18721 2. PWD2526WSOB18722**

इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेब साईट http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।

(निशु गुप्ता) अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता,
DIPR/C/18491/2025 सा.नि.वि. संभाग-कोटा

**Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited**
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN - UO4010KA2002SGC030438)

**BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION**
**(Through KPP Portal Only)**

BESCOM invites tenders from eligible Bidders for "Design, Manufacturing and Supply of Open Bushing Type 250 kVA Star-2 (5-Star) Rated 11kV/433V, 3Phase, 50 Cycle, Aluminium Wound, CRGO Core Distribution Transformers as per Tender Specification, GTP and Drawing to BESCOM" against Enquiry Indent Nos. **1) BESCOM/2025-26/IND0180 (Lot-1), 2) BESCOM/2025-26/IND0181 (Lot-2).** Bid Documents available from: 20.12.2025. Last date for Bid Submission: 19.01.2026, 17:00 Hrs. Opening of Bid Document: 20.01.2026, 17:15 Hrs. The Tenders can be obtained through KPP portal website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPP help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777) or email at support@eprochelpdesk.com. Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

**Sd/- Chief General Manager (Ele.), Procurement, Corporate office, BESCOM, 2ND Floor, K R Circle, Bengaluru-560001.**

**For electricity related complaints call 1912**
Download BESCOM Mithra MOBILE APP

ROME

## UN says Gaza famine is over, but 'situation remains critical'

AP

A famine declared in Gaza in August is now over thanks to improved access for humanitarian aid, the United Nations said on Friday, but warned the food situation in the Palestinian territory remained dire. However, around 1.6 million people are still forecast to face "crisis" levels of food insecurity up to April 15, it said. AFP

ISLAMABAD

## Pakistan arrests top Islamic State Khorasan leader, says UN report

REUTERS

Pakistan has captured Sultan Aziz Azam, a top Islamic State Khorasan (IS-K) leader and spokesperson, in May, according to a UN report. Authorities kept the arrest secret for security reasons. IS-K, active in Afghanistan and Pakistan, remains resilient despite counterterror operations by both countries. AFP

DUBAI

## Flights cancelled, roads flooded as UAE faces heaviest rain in months

AFP

UAE faced its heaviest rainstorm in months on Friday, flooding major cities and disrupting travel. Dozens of flights were cancelled or delayed at Dubai and Sharjah airports. Streets were submerged, prompting warnings from authorities as water-pumping trucks worked to clear flooded roads. AFP

BRUSSELS

## EU leaders to loan Ukraine €90 bn after foiled bid to use Russian assets

AFP

European Union leaders approved on Friday a €90 billion interest-free loan for Ukraine for 2026-27 to meet its military and economic needs. They dropped a plan to use frozen Russian assets after Belgium objected. Despite opposition from Hungary and others, a compromise ensured the package passed. AP

# Protests continue in Dhaka as parties urge calm

Demonstrators say India should not harbour elements of the Hasina govt.; in Chattogram, a mob hurled bricks at the residence of India's Deputy High Commissioner; BNP condemned the violence against the media houses, while Jamaat-e-Islami called for patience; the residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Dhanmondi-32 was also targeted

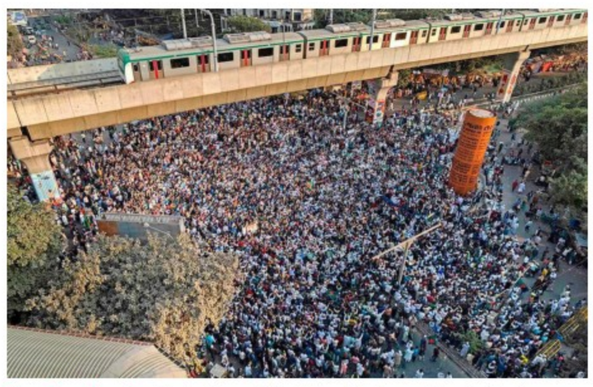
**Rabiul Alam**
DHAKA

Following overnight attacks and vandalism in different parts of Bangladesh, including arson attacks on two of the country's prominent newspaper offices, thousands continued their demonstrations on Friday at the Shahbagh intersection in Dhaka, demanding the arrests of the gunmen who killed Sharif Osman Hadi, a 32-year-old leader of last year's uprising.

Around 3 p.m., several groups were holding rallies in Shahbagh where they highlighted that India should not harbour elements or members of the previous government, including former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The protesters called on the interim government, led by Muhammad Yunus, to step aside in favour of a "revolutionary government".

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Secretary-General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir condemned the attacks on media organisations and journalists, adding that those who wait for moments of national crisis to exploit them are enemies of the country. "They wait for crises, and today they turned this moment of mourning into destructive acts. I strongly condemn this terrorism. The government must take full responsibilities for these incidents," he said, referring to the attacks on *Prothom Alo* and *The Daily Star* offices.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Shafiqur Rahman also urged patience, saying: "Patience is the greatest weapon of the oppressed, and there is no alternative to restraint. This country belongs to all of us. I hope everyone will act with the utmost patience and responsibility."



**Back to streets:** Protesters at Shahbagh intersection in Dhaka on Friday, following the death of youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi. AFP

The U.S. Embassy in Dhaka asked its citizens to remain vigilant, noting that gatherings intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. It advised citizens to avoid demonstrations and exercise caution in the vicinity of large gatherings.

**'Protect journalists'**

The Bangladeshi Journalists in International Media (BJIM) condemned the attacks and called on the interim government to protect journalists and ensure media freedom. Nurul Kabir, editor of the daily New Age, was harassed and shoved by protesters in the early hours of Friday as he tried to reach The Daily Star office.

"Those setting fires are not part of the July movement; they are deliberate conspirators. They entered the scene to tarnish Hadi's struggle. For Hadi, we seek unity, not division," said Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiya, the recently resigned Local Government Adviser.

Protesters also vandalised and set fire to the premises of the Bengali cultural organisation Chhayanaut in Dhanmondi, halting all classes and activities until further notice. The residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Dhanmondi-32 was also attacked around 12:40 a.m. on Friday. Elsewhere, activists of National Citizen Party (NCP) and local residents blocked major highways, including the Dhaka-Aricha and Dhaka-Chattogram routes, causing severe traffic congestion.

In Chattogram, protesters besieged and attacked the residence of India's Deputy High Commissioner, hurling bricks, as law enforcement used tear gas to disperse the crowd. Members of the Bangladesh Army were deployed to maintain order.

In Bandarban, protesters set fire to the residence of former Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Minister Bir Bahadur U. Shwe Sing, which was gutted up to the third floor before firefighters could control the blaze. Three vehicles parked on the ground floor were also destroyed. Similarly, the residence of former Education Minister and Awami League leader Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury Nowfel in Chattogram was vandalised and set on fire. The Awami League city office in Rajshahi was razed, while protest marches were also held in Sylhet and Barishal.

Chief Adviser Yunus, sharing news of Hadi's demise on Thursday night, urged calm, unity, and steadfast progress toward democracy and justice. "This will be our true tribute to martyr Hadi," he said in a televised address.

Hadi's body landed in Dhaka from Singapore at 5:45 p.m. on Friday. His funeral prayer is expected to be held on Saturday. Hadi was shot in the head on December 12 in Purana Paltan, a day after the election schedule was announced.

## Hindu man beaten to death in Bangladesh

**Press Trust of India**
DHAKA/NEW DELHI

A Hindu man was lynched and his body set on fire over alleged blasphemy in Bangladesh.

The deceased, identified as 25-year-old Dipu Chandra Das, was a factory worker in Mymensingh city, the *Bangla Tribune* news portal reported on Friday.

In a statement, the interim government on Friday condemned the lynching of the man, saying there is no space for such violence in the new Bangladesh. "The perpetrators of this heinous crime will not be spared," it added.

Das was first beaten up by a mob outside the factory over blasphemy allegations on Thursday night and hanged from a tree, police said.

## UN rights chief calls for an end to revenge attacks in Bangladesh

**Kallol Bhattacherjee**
NEW DELHI

Soon after the return of the mortal remains of Sharif Osman Hadi, the upcoming leader of Inquilab Mancha, UN Human Rights chief Volker Turk has called for a "transparent investigation" into the killing and urged "everyone to refrain from violence".

Volker Turk

"Retaliation and revenge will only deepen divisions and undermine the rights of all. I urge the authorities to conduct a prompt, impartial, thorough and transparent investigation into the attack that led to Hadi's death, and to ensure due process and accountability for those responsible," Mr. Turk said.

Chief Adviser to the interim government Mohammad Yunus announced that funeral prayers for Hadi would be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the South Plaza of the National Parliament of Bangladesh in Dhaka.

## Pakistan Deputy PM accuses India of 'weaponising water'

**Associated Press**
ISLAMABAD

**Dar said the latest irregular release of water from the Chenab river was detected this week**

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister on Friday accused neighboring India of "weaponising water" by releasing water from Indian dams without warning, saying the move violates a World Bank-brokered water-sharing treaty and threatens peace and stability in the region.

Ishaq Dar made the remarks a day after Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said it had written to New Delhi seeking clarification over what it described as irregular water releases from the Chenab River.

Mr. Dar alleged New Delhi was manipulating water flows at a critical point in Pakistan's agricultural cycle, threatening livelihoods as well as the country's food and economic security. He said the latest irregular release of water from the Chenab river was detected this week.

"Such illegal and irresponsible conduct has the potential to trigger a humanitarian crisis in Pakistan," he said. Pakistan and India has a history of bitter relations and they have fought two of their three wars since gaining Independence from the British colonial rule in 1947.

There was no immediate comment from New Delhi.

Similar actions in September worsened flooding that devastated hundreds of villages in eastern Pakistan, authorities said. India at the time said it had alerted Pakistan about the possible flooding, which was also triggered by rains.

The Indus Water Treaty, which was brokered by the World Bank in 1960, allows for sharing the waters of a river system that is a lifeline for both countries.

Under the treaty, India has control over the eastern rivers of Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas, and Pakistan controls the western rivers of Jhelum, Chenab, and Indus that follow through Kashmir region.

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଦ୍ୟୁତ୍ ଶକ୍ତି ସଂଚାରଣ ନିଗମ ଲିଃ
( ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାରଙ୍କ ଏକ ଉପକ୍ରମ)
OPTCL Lifeline of Odisha
ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: OPTCL Tech Tower, Janpath, Saheed Nagar, Bhubaneswar-751007

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

| E-Tender No. | Tender Description: | Estimated Cost |
|---|---|---|
| CPC-49/2025-26 | For & on behalf of Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL), Chief General Manager, CPC (Central Procurement Cell) invites tendres from reputed manufacturers under two-part bidding system for Supply of 11 Nos. 500MVA, 400/220/33kV ICT (without Tap changer/OLTC) Transformer. | Rs. 400,11,63,854.00/- |

Last Date & Time of Submission of Bid: 19.01.2026 upto 15:00 Hrs.
Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** and **www.optcl.co.in**.
/optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha HIPR-60/2025-26

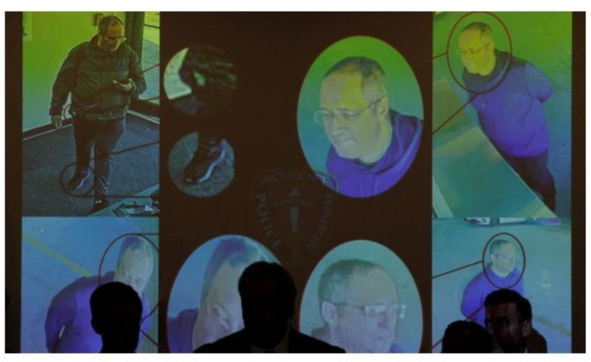
## Trump suspends green card lottery after Brown University shooting and killing of MIT professor

**Agence France-Presse**
NEW YORK

The Trump administration announced on Thursday it will suspend a green card lottery that allowed a man believed to be behind both a mass shooting at Brown University and the killing of an MIT professor into the United States.

Claudio Neves Valente, a 48-year-old Portuguese national, is accused of bursting into a building at the Ivy League school on Saturday and opening fire on students, killing two and wounding nine.

He is also accused of killing a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) two days later.



Images of Claudio Neves Valente being displayed during a press conference in Providence, Rhode Island, on Thursday. REUTERS

Homeland security chief Kristi Noem wrote on social media on Thursday that Neves Valente "entered the United States through the diversity lottery immigrant visa program (DV1) in 2017 and was granted a green card".

The U.S. green card lottery grants up to 55,000 permanent resident visas annually to people "from countries with low rates of immigration to the United States," according to the State Department.

Ms. Noem described Neves Valente, who police said on Thursday was found dead by suicide after a days-long manhunt, was a "heinous individual" who "should never have been allowed in our country".

"At President Trump's direction, I am immediately directing USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services) to pause the DV1 program to ensure no more Americans are harmed by this disastrous program," Ms. Noem added on Thursday.

In 2017, during U.S. President Donald Trump's first term, the Republican leader vowed a battery of tough measures to curb immigration, including terminating the green card lottery, after a deadly terror attack in New York.

Ms. Noem pointed to this incident in her post on Thursday saying: "President Trump fought to end this program, following the devastating NYC truck ramming by an ISIS terrorist, who entered under the DV1 program, and murdered eight people."

There is no immediate indication of a motive in the shootings.

THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU
REWIND 2025
TRIVIA QUIZ
DAY 15

1. On January 5, 2025, Tamil Nadu CM M.K. Stalin announced a $1 million reward for cracking the long-undeciphered script of which ancient civilisation?
2. UNESCO officially inscribed which Indian festival on its Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity list in December 2025?
3. Cricket is set to return to the Olympics at the 2028 Los Angeles Games after more than a century. In which U.S. city will the cricket events, including the medal matches, be held?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit bit.ly/Rewind2024TriviaQuiz take the quiz. Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Deepika Padukone
2. CRIB
3. Sanchar Saathi

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Pulkit Khurana, New Delhi | 2. TS. Karthik, Chennai | 3. Farzana Simran, Trivandrum

**BULL RUN**

## Dominant India extends winning streak in home T20I series

VIJAY SONEJI

India's 3-1 victory against South Africa was its eighth straight T20I series win, continuing the run from 2023/24 when it drew a series 1-1 in SA. The unbeaten run goes even further at home, extending from 2018/19 with its last series defeat (0-2) coming against Australia. India has remained unbeaten across 18 series at home.

**FAVOURITE FOE**

## Tilak becomes Indian batter with most T20I runs against SA

VIJAY SONEJI

Tilak Varma, during his 42-ball 73 in the fifth T20I in Ahmedabad, became the Indian batter with the most T20I runs versus South Africa (496 runs in 10 innings). He eclipsed Rohit Sharma's mark of 429 runs (17 essays). India has the most 200-plus first-innings team totals in T20s (34 instances), ahead of Somerset (32).

**DOUBLE DELIGHT**

## Hardik hits second-fastest T20I fifty for India, reaches 2000 runs

VIJAY SONEJI

Hardik Pandya became the fifth Indian batter to complete 2000 T20I runs during the fifth T20I against South Africa. He joined a list that includes Rohit Sharma (4231), Virat Kohli (4188), Suryakumar Yadav (2788) and K.L. Rahul (2265). Hardik (16 balls) also slammed the second-fastest 50 for India after Yuvraj Singh's 12-ball effort in 2007.

**'KEEPER-BATTERS**

## Samson joins Dhoni and Pant in 1000-run club in T20Is

VIJAY SONEJI

Sanju Samson crossed the 1000-run mark in T20Is during the final game of the series against South Africa. Samson, who became the 14th Indian to reach the milestone, is also the third Indian wicketkeeper-batter after M.S. Dhoni and Rishabh Pant to achieve the milestone. He also entered the 8000-run club in T20s.

# Tilak, Hardik, Varun star as India wraps up series

The left-right combination adds 105 runs off just 44 balls to power the Men in Blue to 231 before the mystery spinner proves his worth yet again to derail the South African chase in a run-fest

SA IN INDIA

**Ashwin Achal**
AHMEDABAD

South Africa may have started its tour of India with two famous Test victories, but the home team ensured that there would not be a bright end to the visit.

In the fifth and final T20I here on Friday, India pulled out all the stops to record a thumping 30-run win and a 3-1 series triumph.

The night was set alight by a quick-fire knock from Hardik Pandya before spinner Varun Chakaravarthy (four for 53) pulled the rug from under the South African chase.

After being put in, a fine batting performance powered India to 231 for five.

**Perfect approach**

Hardik (63, 25b, 5x4, 5x6) exemplified the perfect T20 approach, going after the bowling with real intent.

There was a dip in momentum as an uncomfortable Suryakumar Yadav (5, 7b) failed to get going once again.

The five T20Is against New Zealand next month gives the skipper the last chance to get into the groove ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup.

Order was restored when Hardik came in at No. 5. An expansive drive for six off the very first ball he faced showed his destructive mood.

By the time Hardik holed out in the last over, he had taken India well past the 200-run mark.

The crowd stood up in unison to applaud him – quite the turnaround from the hostile reception he encountered at this very venue when he shifted allegiance from Gujarat Titans to Mumbai Indians in IPL 2024.

Hardik pulled India forward in the company of Tilak Varma (73, 42b, 10x4, 1x6). The duo's 105-run fourth-wicket stand came off 44 balls, with the latter nearly matching former in intent.

**Breezy opening stand**

Sanju Samson (37, 22b, 4x4, 2x6), drafted in to replace an injured Shubman Gill, gave India a superb start with Abhishek Sharma (34, 21b, 6x4, 1x6).

The PowerPlay was filled with aerial shots and high tempo. Samson's inclusion seemed to give India added fluency, oftentimes missing with Gill's recent dip in form.

South Africa stayed on track thanks to an enterprising 35-ball 65 from opener Quinton de Kock. The visitor threatened to steal it midway through the chase at 118 for one.

**Big breakthrough**

Jasprit Bumrah, as he has done so many times in the past, delivered when India needed a breakthrough. Brought back into the attack, Bumrah deceived de Kock with a slower one, which was lobbed back to the bowler.

Hardik followed up with a slower bouncer in the next over to take out Dewald Brevis.

Varun then delivered the hammer blow, rapping Aiden Markram on the pads and cleaning up Donovan Ferreira in a decisive 13th over. In a matter of three overs, South Africa crashed to 135 for five.

A miserly 17th over, where Bumrah conceded two runs, shut South Africa out of the contest.

**Firing on all cylinders:** Tilak and Hardik cut loose to pile on the Proteas' agony. VIJAY SONEJI

**Midas touch:** Varun picked up key wickets to put the home side on top in the series decider. VIJAY SONEJI

**SCOREBOARD**

**INDIA**
Sanju Samson b Linde 37 *(22b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Abhishek Sharma c de Kock b Bosch 34 *(21b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Tilak Varma run out 73 *(42b, 10x4, 1x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav c Miller b Bosch 5 *(7b)*, Hardik Pandya c Hendricks b Baartman 63 *(25b, 5x4, 5x6)*, Shivam Dube (not out) 10 *(3b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Jitesh Sharma (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-3, w-6): 9; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 231.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-63 (Abhishek, 5.4 overs), 2-97 (Samson, 9.1), 3-115 (Suryakumar, 12.1), 4-220 (Hardik, 19.3), 5-227 (Tilak, 19.5).

**SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING**
Ngidi 4-0-29-0, Jansen 4-0-50-0, Baartman 3-0-39-1, Bosch 3-0-44-2, Ferreira 2-0-20-0, Linde 4-0-46-1.

**SOUTH AFRICA**
Quinton de Kock c & b Bumrah 65 *(35b, 9x4, 3x6)*, Reeza Hendricks c Dube b Varun 13 *(12b, 1x4)*, Dewald Brevis c Washington b Hardik 31 *(17b, 3x4, 2x6)*, David Miller c Samson b Arshdeep 18 *(14b, 2x4)*, Aiden Markram lbw b Varun 6 *(4b, 1x4)*, Donovan Ferreira b Varun 0 *(1b)*, George Linde b Varun 16 *(8b, 2x6)*, Marco Jansen c Samson b Bumrah 14 *(5b, 2x6)*, Corbin Bosch (not out) 17 *(15b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Lungi Ngidi (not out) 7 *(9b, 1x4)*; Extras (w-14): 14; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 201.

**FALL OF WICKETS**
1-69 (Hendricks, 6.3), 2-120 (de Kock, 10.2), 3-122 (Brevis, 11.1), 4-135 (Markram, 12.3), 5-135 (Ferreira, 12.4), 6-154 (Miller, 14.4), 7-163 (Linde, 15.2), 8-177 (Jansen, 16.1).

**INDIA BOWLING**
Arshdeep 4-0-47-1, Washington 4-0-30-0, Bumrah 4-0-17-2, Varun 4-0-53-4, Hardik 3-0-41-1, Abhishek 1-0-13-0.

**Toss:** South Africa.
**PoM:** Hardik; **PoS:** Varun.
*India won by 30 runs to clinch five-match series 3-1.*

## Aaron, Vihaan power India into summit clash

U-19 ASIA CUP

**Press Trust of India**
DUBAI

Vice-captain Vihaan Malhotra's exhilarating stroke-play was well complemented by Aaron George's composure as India set up an U-19 Asia Cup summit clash with arch-rival Pakistan after crushing Sri Lanka by eight wickets in a rain-curtailed semifinal here on Friday.

After rain reduced the match to 20-overs per side, the Indian bowlers, who have been spot on throughout the tournament, restricted Sri Lanka to 138 for eight.

In reply, left-handed Vihaan (61 not out, 45b, 4x4, 2x6), who was snapped by RCB at the recently-concluded IPL mini-auction, hit a couple of sixes apart from a few boundaries.

His partner and India's crisis man in this event, Aaron (58 not out, 49b, 4x4, 1x6), was technically perfect with his strokes as India chased down the target in 18 overs. India's eighth appearance in the final was built on the unbroken 114-run stand for the third wicket between Vihaan and Aaron.

In the other semifinal, Pakistan beat Bangladesh by eight wickets, and the neighbours will meet in the final after a gap of 11 years.

**The scores:** Sri Lanka 138/8 in 20 overs (Dinsara 32, Heenatigala 42, Seneviratne 30) lost to India 139/2 in 18 overs (Aaron George 58 n.o., Vihaan 61 n.o.). **Toss:** India; **Players-of-the-Match:** Aaron & Vihaan.

Bangladesh 121 in 26.3 overs (Basir 33, Subhan 4/20) lost to Pakistan 122/2 in 16.3 overs (Minhas 63 n.o). **Toss:** Pakistan; **PoM:** Minhas.

**Takes two to tango:** Aaron and Vihaan toyed with the Sri Lankan attack. ACC

Satwik and Chirag... making history. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

## Satwik-Chirag duo enters semifinals

**Press Trust of India**
HANGZHOU

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty maintained their unbeaten run to reach the knockout stage of the season-ending BWF World Tour Finals here on Friday. The two defeated Malaysia's Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik 17-21, 21-18, 21-15 in a 70-minute contest in their final Group B match.

Seeded third, Satwik and Chirag showed composure and tactical acumen after dropping the opening game to edge out the Paris Olympic bronze medallists. They are the first Indian men's pair to reach the semifinals of the season-ending event.

The only unbeaten duo in Group B, Satwik and Chirag needed to win just a game to seal a semifinal berth despite trailing 5-11 in the head-to-head against the Malaysians. They did much more than that.

## Suspense over opener, reserve stumper's spots

**Amol Karhadkar**
MUMBAI

"Batting orders are overrated, except the two openers." Head coach Gautam Gambhir reiterated his coaching philosophy recently, and it could soon come under scrutiny. As the national senior selection committee meets at the BCCI headquarters here on Saturday to finalise India's squad for the T20 World Cup 2026, it is the opening combination that is likely to generate the most debate.

The selection panel, chaired by former India pacer Ajit Agarkar, otherwise faces a relatively straightforward task while picking the squad for the marquee event. Since Gambhir took over as head coach in July 2024, the T20I side has emerged as India's most settled and successful unit across formats.

Ever since Shubman Gill was recalled after a year-long hiatus ahead of the Asia Cup in September, the debate regarding the opener's slot has only intensified. Gill has scored 291 runs in 15 innings since his return, striking at 137.26, with a 28-ball 47 against Pakistan in the Asia Cup being his highest score.

Gill's return came at the expense of Sanju Samson, who had enjoyed a prolific 12-month run at the top of the order, scoring three hundreds.

Gill has not really got going since his return. R.V. MOORTHY

Yashasvi Jaiswal, meanwhile, remains firmly in contention. Preferred over Gill as the reserve opener for the 2024 T20 World Cup, Jaiswal has strengthened his case by making significant contributions in the limited opportunities he has received in India's Blues.

Ishan Kishan has further complicated matters with a timely resurgence, playing a key role in Jharkhand's triumphant Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy campaign.

The reserve wicketkeeper's position is also up for discussion. While Jitesh Sharma appears certain to be the first-choice wicketkeeper, the battle between Samson and Kishan for the backup role remains open.

## Eagles to take on Kites for the crown

**Sports Bureau**
BENGALURU

AOS Eagles will meet Aussie Mavericks Kites in the final of the fourth edition of the World Tennis League at the S.M. Krishna Stadium here on Saturday.

On Friday, Eagles beat VB Realty Hawks 22-12, with Sumit Nagal registering a 6-1 victory over Denis Shapovalov. The Canadian, though, was hampered by a sore neck.

In the second fixture, Kites beat Falcons 24-19, with Dhakshineswar Suresh notching up a 6-4 win over Daniil Medvedev in the final rubber.

**The results:**

**AOS Eagles bt VB Realty Hawks 22-12** (Gael Monfils & Shrivalli Bhamidipaty lost to Yuki Bhambri & Elina Svitolina 4-6; Sumit Nagal bt Denis Shapovalov 6-1; Shrivalli bt Maaya Rajeshwaran 6-2; Shrivalli & Paula Badosa bt Maaya & Svitolina 6-3).

**Aussie Mavericks Kites bt Game Changers Falcons 24-19** (Marta Kostyuk bt Magda Linette 6-4; Dhakshineswar Suresh & Kostyuk bt Rohan Bopanna & Sahaja Yamalapalli 6-4; Nick Kyrgios & Dhakshineswar lost to Daniil Medvedev & Bopanna 6-7; Dhakshineswar bt Medvedev 6-4).

**The day's picks**

Eagles registered a 22-12 win over Hawks

Nagal scored a 6-1 win over Shapovalov

Dhakshineswar shocked Medvedev as Kites downed Falcons

**The master:** Giri, right, showed his depth to outclass Yi. GCL

## Caruana helps Pipers pip Continental Kings

GCL

**P.K. Ajith Kumar**
MUMBAI

Alireza Firouzja flashed a winning smile, extended his hand to Fabiano Caruana. The fans stood up from their seats at the Royal Opera House and applauded.

Caruana won his battle against time in a wild game on the Icon board. And he also ended Firouzja's stunning series of five wins from as many games.

Caruana's victory also helped Alpine SG Pipers overcome the defending champion Triveni Continental Kings in the sixth round.

Continental Kings is leading the table with 15 match points and 70 game points, but it has played a match more than the second-placed upGrad Mumba Masters (12 match points, 67 game points).

**The results (seventh round):**

**Triveni Continental Kings bt PBG Alaskan Knights 10-9** (Alireza Firouzja lost to D. Gukesh; Wei Yi bt Arjun Erigaisi; Vidit Gujrathi bt Leinier Dominguez; Zhu Jiner lost to Kateryna Lagno; Alexandra Kosteniuk bt Sarasadat Khademalsharieh; MarcAndria Maurizzi drew with Daniel Dardha).

**Sixth round: Alpine SG Pipers bt Triveni Continental Kings 9-7** (Fabiano Caruana bt Firouzja; Anish Giri bt Wei; R. Praggnanandhaa bt Vidit; Hou Yifan lost to Zhu; Nino Batsiashvili bt Kosteniuk; Leon Mendonca lost to Maurizzi).

**PBG Alaskan Knights bt Fyers American Gambits 9-7** (Gukesh lost to Hikaru Nakamura; Arjun bt Vladislav Artemiev; Dominquez drew with Bibisara Assaubayeva; Khademalasharieh bt Teodora Injac; Dardha drew with Volodar Mauzin).

**upGrad Mumba Masters bt Ganges Grandmaster 11-6** (Maxime Vachier-Lagrave drew with Viswanathan Anand; Wesley So bt Vincent Keymer; Shakhriyar Mamedyarov bt Javokhir Sindarov; Koneru Humpy bt Polina Shuvalova; D. Harika lost to Stavroula Tsolakidou; Bardiya Daneshvar drew with Raunak Sadhwani).

*(The writer is in Mumbai at the invitation of Tech Mahindra).*

## INBRIEF

### Shanaka named Sri Lanka skipper for T20 World Cup

Sri Lanka on Friday named Dasun Shanaka as skipper of its preliminary 25-member squad for the T20 World Cup as the co-hosts sacked Charith Asalanka as the leader of the side. Pramodaya Wickramasingha, who is back as the chairman of selectors, said Asalanka's poor batting form and Shanaka's experience in playing three previous World Cups were factors in making the decision.

**The squad:** Dasun Shanaka (Capt.), Pathum Nissanka, Kusal Mendis, Kamil Mishara, Kusal Perera, Dhananjaya de Silva, Niroshan Dickwella, Janith Liyanage, Charith Asalanka, Kamindu Mendis, Pavan Rathnayake, Sahan Arachchige, Wanindu Hasaranga, Dunith Wellalage, Milan Rathnayake, Nuwan Thushara, Eshan Malinga, Dushmantha Chameera, Pramod Madushan, Matheesha Pathirana, Dilshan Madushanka, Maheesh Theekshana, Dushan Hemantha, Vijayakanth Viyaskanth and Traveen Mathew.

### BTC cancels remaining races of ongoing winter meeting

The Stewards of the Bangalore Turf Club have decided to cancel the remaining races of the ongoing Bangalore winter meeting 2025-26. This was done in view of two horses stationed at Bangalore Turf Club Limited testing positive for Glanders disease and the Karnataka government notification on December 16 declaring as it as a notified area as per section 6 of "The Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animal Act 2009 and clause - 4.2 of the National Action Plan for Control and Eradication of Glanders in India (Revised 2025) by DAHD, GOI Delhi.

### Koubek is Czech coach ahead of WC qualifying final stage

Veteran coach Miroslav Koubek is taking over the Czech national team for the final stage of World Cup qualifying, the country's football association said on Friday. The 74-year-old Koubek replaces Ivan Hasek, who was fired in October after a humiliating 2-1 loss to the Faroe Islands in World Cup qualifying. Czech Football Association president David Trunda said Koubek was given a contract for two and a half years.

### PSG penalty hero Safonov out with a fractured hand

Goalkeeper Matvei Safonov, the star of Paris Saint-Germain's Intercontinental Cup win on Wednesday, has a fracture in his left hand, and an update will be provided in three to four weeks, the club said on Friday. The Russian saved four penalties in a shootout in Qatar on Wednesday as PSG edged Brazilians Flamengo.

### We have moved on from Salah furore: coach Slot

Arne Slot said Liverpool has "moved on" from the furore caused by Mohamed Salah's explosive outburst at being dropped and are showing signs of growing into the side he wants to see. The Reds begin what could be up to a month without Salah, who is representing Egypt at the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON), away at Tottenham on Saturday. After a run of nine defeats in 12 games, Slot has steadied the ship in a five-game unbeaten run, during which Salah did not start a single game. "Actions speak louder than words. We have moved on," Slot told reporters on Friday, referring to his decision to bring Salah on as a substitute in last week's 2-0 win over Brighton.

**LIVE TELECAST**

**Premier League:** SS Select 1, 2 & JioHotstar, 6, 8.30, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)
**LaLiga:** FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Sunday)
**Bundesliga:** Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8 & 11 p.m.
**Serie A:** DAZN, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Sunday)
**New Zealand vs West Indies:** 3rd Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 3.30 a.m. (Sunday)
**The Ashes:** 3rd Test, day 5, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 5 a.m. (Sunday)
**Kolkata 25K Marathon:** Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 6 a.m. (Sunday)

# Head's unbeaten 142 puts Australia on the verge of retaining the urn

Weatherald's early wicket peps up England before the opener slams the door shut, cutting and chopping boundaries to all corners of the ground

**THE ASHES**

Agence France-Presse
ADELAIDE

Danger man Travis Head crunched his fourth century in as many Tests at Adelaide Oval on Friday as Australia built a 356-run lead over England to stand on the brink of retaining the Ashes.

The host was 271 four four at stumps on day three of the third Test with Head on 142 and first-innings century-maker Alex Carey not out 52, taking the five-match series out of England's reach.

England must win after crashing inside two days at the first Test in Perth and inside four in Brisbane, both by eight wickets.

But it appears to be an impossible task with the highest run chase at the ground 316 by Australia against England in 1902.

**SCOREBOARD**

**Australia — 1st innings:** 371
**England — 1st innings:** Zak Crawley c Carey b Cummins 9, Ben Duckett b Lyon 29, Ollie Pope c Inglis b Lyon 3, Joe Root c Carey b Cummins 19, Harry Brook c Carey b Green 45, Ben Stokes b Starc 83, Jamie Smith c Carey b Cummins 22, Will Jacks c Carey b Boland 6, Brydon Carse b Boland 0, Jofra Archer c Labuschagne b Boland 51, Josh Tongue (not out) 7; Extras (b-3, lb-5, nb-4): 12; Total (in 87.2 overs): 286.
**Fall of wickets:** 1-37, 2-41, 3-42, 4-71, 5-127, 6-159, 7-168, 8-168, 9-274.
**Australia bowling:** Starc 16-1-61-1, Cummins 17-3-69-3, Boland 15.2-6-45-3, Lyon 28-5-70-2, Green 11-3-33-1.
**Australia — 2nd innings:** Travis Head (batting) 142, Jake Weatherald lbw b Carse 1, Marnus Labuschagne c Brook b Tongue 13, Usman Khawaja c Smith b Jacks 40, Cameron Green c Brook b Tongue 7, Alex Carey (batting) 52; Extras (b-4, lb-6, nb-4, w-2): 16; Total (for four wkts. in 66 overs): 271.
**Fall of wickets:** 1-8, 2-53, 3-139, 4-149.
**England bowling:** Archer 10-2-15-0, Carse 15-1-48-1, Tongue 14-0-59-2, Jacks 19-0-107-1, Root 8-0-32-0.

Head's crucial ton, his 11th, came off a composed 146 balls although he almost didn't get there, dropped on 99 by Harry Brook as impatience got the better of him. He has now scored a century in four consecutive Tests on his home ground, following 140 against India last year and 119 and 175 against the West Indies.

Australia suffered an early setback in a tense 20 minutes before lunch after England was all out for 286 on the back of Ben Stokes's gritty 83 in response to Australia's first innings 371.

Bryson Carse trapped Jake Weatherald lbw for one and he walked without reviewing after the umpire lifted his finger, although replays showed the ball was pitching outside leg stump.

It gave England a glimmer of hope, but after the break Head slammed the door shut, cutting and chopping boundaries to all corners of the ground.

Marnus Labuschagne went for 13 when he edged Josh Tongue to Harry Brook at slip, with reviews showing it carried.

Usman Khawaja, who hit a defiant 82 in the first innings after his last-minute call-up for the ill Steve Smith, was a perfect foil for the more aggressive Head.

But on 40 he was undone by the spin of Will Jacks, caught behind, and Cameron Green followed soon after for seven, edging Tongue to Brook.

After getting through the nervous 90s, Head finally brought up his century with a four off Joe Root, taking off his helmet and kissing the turf before pumping his fists.

**Unstoppable:** Head has four hundreds in as many Tests at the Adelaide Oval. AFP

**Prolific:** Conway's highest Test score was laced with 31 fours. AFP

## WI openers fight back after the Conway show

**WEST INDIES IN NZ**

Reuters
MOUNT MAUNGANUI

New Zealand rode on Devon Conway's career-best 227 (367b, 31x4) to amass 575 for eight before declaring its first innings on day two of the third and final test in Mount Maunganui on Friday.

West Indies cruised to 110 for no loss in reply with a mountain to climb despite the breezy start, but openers John Campbell, on 45, and Brandon King, on 55, have looked comfortable against both pace and spin.

New Zealand is 1-0 ahead in the three-Test series.

After a punishing day one when they bled 334 runs for the sole wicket of Tom Latham, West Indies suffered a setback when pace spearhead Kemar Roach was ruled out of second day's play with a hamstring issue.

Jayden Seales removed nightwatchman Jacob Duffy, and Justin Greaves later nicked off Kane Williamson for 31 to spark a brief West Indies fightback.

Conway was the bedrock of the New Zealand innings while Rachin Ravindra (72) and Ajaz Patel (30) produced unbeaten cameos before New Zealand declared.

**The scores:** New Zealand 575/8 in 155 overs (Latham 137, Conway 227, Ravindra 72) vs. West Indies 110/0 in 23 overs (Campbell 45 batting, King 55 batting).

## Hazare Trophy: Pant, Delhi headline Delhi's squad

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rishabh Pant and Virat Kohli headline Delhi's 20-member squad for the opening two games of the 2025-26 Vijay Hazare Trophy.

The domestic 50-over tournament kicks off on December 24. Delhi, placed in Group-D, will play all its group-stage matches in Bengaluru.

With the BCCI making it mandatory for all members of the Indian team to participate in at least two rounds of the List-A event, Pant and Kohli confirmed their availability to the Delhi & District Cricket Association (DDCA).

Kohli's presence was confirmed by DDCA president Rohan Jaitley on December 2. Pant will lead Delhi in the matches against Andhra and Gujarat.

Kohli was in red-hot form during the recent three-match ODI series against South Africa at home, smashing two tons and an unbeaten half-century in a 2-1 win for the host.

Kohli's next international assignment will be a three-match ODI series against New Zealand starting on January 11.

**Ready for a ball:** Kohli will be keen to continue his good run while Pant will be looking forward to the Hazare Trophy to get some match time under his belt. AFP

Kohli's last appearance for Delhi came against Railways in the Ranji Trophy in January. The squad also features veteran pacer Ishant Sharma. Coincidentally, Ishant and Kohli, who are known to be good mates, made their debut for Delhi in the Ranji Trophy together in 2006.

The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA), meanwhile, has sought permission from the police to allow a limited number of spectators into the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

"We have applied for permission from the police to permit a limited number of spectators. Permission is awaited," KSCA spokesperson Vinay Mruthyunjaya told the *The Hindu*, after Kohli's inclusion was formally announced on Friday. Mruthyunjaya clarified that if spectators are allowed, it will be ticketed entry.

**The squad:** Rishabh Pant, Virat Kohli, Ishant Sharma, Navdeep Saini, Ayush Badoni, Arpit Rana, Yash Dhull, Sarthak Ranjan, Priyansh Arya, Tejasvi Dahiya, Nitish Rana, Hrithik Shokeen, Harsh Tyagi, Simarjeet Singh, Prince Yadav, Divij Mehra, Ayush Doseja, Vaibhav Kandpal, Rohan Rana, Anuj Rawat (standby).

## Lakshita, Sharvan bag 10m air pistol team gold

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Army pair of Lakshita Bishnoi and Sharvan Kumar overcame the challenge from Haryana's Suruchi Singh and Samrat Rana to clinch the 10m air pistol mixed team gold in the National Shooting Championships on Saturday. Laskhita and Sharvan defeated the India team regulars 16-10 to seal the title.

Lakshita (290) and Sharvan (292) aggregated 582 to qualify for the gold medal match along with the Haryana duo, who also had an identical score of 582 but with fewer 'inner 10s'.

Karnataka's Jonathan Gavin Antony and Avanthika Madhu took the junior mixed team gold with a 17-11 win over Haryana's Kapil Bainsla and Palak Gulia. Madhya Pradesh secured bronze (574) with Aaradhya Mishra (286) and Yugpratap Singh Rathore (288-9).

In youth category, Madhya Pradesh's Aaradhya and Yugpratap capped a strong showing by clinching gold with a decisive 16-8 victory over Karnataka's Gamberya Gowda and Darren Dawn.

## India actively addressing doping concerns, says Sports Ministry

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

India may have completed a dubious hat-trick by topping the doping charts in 2024 but the sports ministry is confident that increased testing and efforts at dissemination of information will gradually improve things.

As per the latest figures released by World Anti-Doping Agency, India conducted 7,113 tests (6,576 urine and 537 blood samples) in 2024 with 260 Adverse Analytical Findings (AAF), accounting for a positivity rate of 3.6 percent. But ministry officials insist things are improving.

"From around 4,000 tests in 2019 to more than 7,000 tests in 2024, we are constantly working to address the issue. So far, we have already conducted more than 7,000 tests this year as well with just 110 positive cases, which is just over one percent," an official explained.

He admitted that government jobs were a big inducement for athletes to resort to short cuts.

"Some of the violations are inadvertent, like taking an Over-The-Counter medicine without checking the ingredients first, but we are addressing that through apps like Know Your Medicine. But that would be perhaps just one percent of the AAFs. Desperation for jobs is still a big factor."

The second Khelo India Beach Games, will be held from January 5 to 10, 2026 at the Blue Flag Ghoghla Beach, Diu. More than 800 athletes across six competitive disciplines - soccer, volleyball, sepak takraw, Kabaddi, pencak silat and Open Water Swimming, along with two demonstration sports, mallakhamb and tug of war - are expected to participate in the Games.

Marking the first anniversary of the Fit India Sundays on Cycle, the sports ministry will be unveiling the Fit India App which will help people earn carbon credits and eventually cash benefits. The 51st edition of the event on December 21 in Puducherry will see participation from political and sports personalities.

## IWL's ninth season from today, to be played in a centralised format

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Defending champion East Bengal FC will be at the forefront as the Indian Women's League's (IWL) ninth season gets underway in a centralised format at the National Centre of Excellence and Kalyani Stadium here on Saturday.

A total of eight teams will vie for the crown which has seen three different winners in the past three seasons – East Bengal, Odisha FC and Gokulam Kerala FC.

Gokulam enjoys the honour of having won three consecutive titles from 2020 to 2023. The tournament comes as a welcome break in the dismal scenario of Indian football where the leagues in the men's calendar are in jeopardy in the absence of an investor.

The IWL is expected to provide necessary match practice ahead of the senior and under-20 Asian Cup assignments for the women's National teams in March.

The IWL will be played in a double round-robin format in two phases with the first seeing each club playing seven matches from December 20, 2025, to January 9, 2026.

The second phase will kick off on April 20 and will conclude in the second week of May.

In absence of a broadcasting partner, the All India Football Federation has made arrangements for live streaming on its Indian Football YouTube channel.

Apart from regular contenders like East Bengal, Gokulam, Sethu FC, Kickstart FC, Sreebhumi FC and Nita FC this season will see newly-promoted sides Garhwal United FC and Sesa Football Academy.

The two will be eager to do something notable in their maiden appearance in top-tier football.

# Ishan Kishan 2.0 — spiritual, mature and prolific

The wicketkeeper-batter eyes journey into the future; says he is delighted to have guided Jharkhand to victory in SMAT; dad says reading the Gita has helped his son stay calm

CRICKET

**Press Trust of India**
KOLKATA

**Roaring success:** Kishan amassed 517 runs in the SMAT. FILE PHOTO: VIJAY SONEJI

Ishan Kishan's mind now does not rage. Delight of leading Jharkhand to their maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy title and the uncertainty surrounding him a day ahead of India's T20 World Cup squad selection are met with the same stoicity.

The emotions are now walled behind the soothing verses of Bhagavad Gita, Kishan's new companion as indicated to *PTI* by his father Pranav Pandey.

On his part, Kishan now lives in the present, and all that matters is Jharkhand's SMAT victory.

"*Bahut achha khele, bahut maja aya; jaldi aur baat hogi aur aise hi jeet te rahenge* (We really played well and hope we keep playing like this)," Kishan said after arriving to a rousing welcome at the Ranchi airport on Friday.

**Leading run-getter**

The Kishan-led Jharkhand defeated Haryana by 69 runs in the final at Pune, and the left-hander finished the tournament as the leading run-scorer, amassing 517 runs in 10 innings at an average of 57.44 and a strike rate in excess of 197.

Kishan smashed 101 off 49 balls -- his fifth century in the competition -- in the final equalling India T20I opener Abhishek Sharma's record for the most hundreds in the tournament.

Kishan's father Pranav, a businessman, said following Gita's holy scriptures was an idea mooted by him for Kishan to find some solutions to his troubles.

"My mother told me to read the Gita. So, I suggested that he read the Gita. She had told me if you are in a lot of tension, then you keep your question in your mind and open the Gita.

"Read the page that comes in front of you. You will get the answer to your question in that page, helping in dealing with the situation. I asked him (Kishan) to do the same," said Pranav.

He added that now it has become a habit with Kishan. "The Gita is always with him, and he keeps it in his box. If he feels the need, he reads it. He carries a pocket Gita wherever he goes. Whenever something happens, he opens it and reads it." According to him, the impact of this spiritual grounding is evident in Kishan's batting as well.

**New mindset**

"We have seen it. For any person, the Bhagavad Gita gives you strength to support you anytime," he said.

"His maturity level has increased. His batting has matured. He likes to take more responsibility. He is mentally more mature. He plays less rash shots now." Pranav recalled an incident that underlined the new mindset of Kishan.

"He was here after getting injured during the county stint with Nottinghamshire. There was a 20-odd days break, and he met with a freak accident when he fell off a motorcycle," he said. The unfortunate incident scuttled his chances of being drafted into the India squad in England as a replacement for the injured Rishabh Pant, who suffered a toe injury in the fourth Test at Manchester. Instead, N. Jagadeesan joined the national squad in England.

"He (Kishan) was very depressed that time. Now he's perfectly fine. When you are in depression, his nature was never to show emotions. But as parents, we could understand," his father added.

# Constant challenge the key, says Varun

**Press Trust of India**
AHMEDABAD

India spinner Varun Chakaravarthy says his T20 World Cup preparation is centred around backing his lengths, maintaining confidence and constantly challenging himself mentally even in matches that appear straightforward.

The 34-year-old is vital to the Men in Blue's title defence at the World Cup, which is scheduled to be held from February 7 to March 8 in India and Sri Lanka.

"It is very important to keep putting pressure on yourself to get ready for the World Cup," the Tamil Nadu spinner said on 'Follow The Blues' on *Jiohotstar*.

"You have to challenge yourself even when there is no challenge. If a match feels easy, you have to create that pressure mentally and start challenging yourself.

"Confidence, bowling the right lengths, and understanding the opposition are key. That is one major factor I want to take into the World Cup. With a better understanding of the opposition, I think I can do well."

Varun said sticking to the basics and trusting his skill-set have been the key.

"My plan is simple, stick to the basics and bowl my length. Sometimes it works.

"When you are not confident, your mindset affects your skill. The key is to stay confident and back your skills. That is when you execute well."

# KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

### Maharashtra holds Karnataka in Cooch Behar Trophy

Defending 223, Maharashtra's bowlers spearheaded by Arqam Syed (4/33), restricted Karnataka to 221 for seven in 82 overs and secured a thrilling draw in their four-day Cooch Behar Trophy (under-19) Elite match at the S.D.N.R.W. grounds in Mysuru on Friday.

**The scores:** Maharashtra 304 in 94.2 overs & 239/7 decl. in 72 overs (Arqam Syed 69 n.o., Suashik Jagtap 40, Sushrut Sawant 30, Samkit Surana 30, Eesa Pathige 4/42) drew with Karnataka 320 in 104 overs & 221/7 in 82 overs (Anvay Dravid 57, Manikanth Shivanand 47, Varun Patel 41, Aadesh D. Urs 37, Arqam Syed 4/33).

### Vandita bowls Karnataka to big win over Punjab

Vandita K. Rao (6/17) helped Karnataka register a thumping 104-run win over Punjab in the BCCI U-19 Women's One-Day Trophy in Hyderabad on Friday. It was Karnataka's fourth straight win and it now leads Elite Group-D with 16 points.

On Wednesday, half-centuries from Rachitha Hatwar (59) and Liyanka Shetty (56) had carried Karnataka to a convincing nine-wicket win over Bihar.

**The scores:** Karnataka 199/9 in 50 overs (Shreya S. Chavan 45, Karnika Karthick 55, Harman 4/32) bt Punjab 95 in 28.3 overs (Vandita K. Rao 6/17).

Bihar 117 in 40.2 overs lost to Karnataka 121/1 in 16.1 overs (Rachitha Hatwar 59, Liyanka Shetty 56).

### Atharv scalps five as Karnataka gets first-innings lead

Atharv S. Deshpande scalped five wickets (5/45) as Karnataka dismissed Baroda for 177 and secured a 57-run first-innings lead on day two of their Vijay Merchant U-16 Trophy match in Raipur on Friday.

**The scores:** Karnataka 234 in 91.3 overs (J. Sukruth 107) & 6/1 in five overs vs. Baroda 177 in 73 overs (Tilak Patel 57, Atharv S. Deshpande 5/45).

### Nikhil to lead Karnataka in Santosh Trophy

Karnataka will begin its 2025-26 Santosh Trophy campaign against Lakshadweep at the Bangalore Football Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday. The 2022-23 champion is in Group-H, and will meet Services on December 22 and Goa on December 24 in its other fixtures. Nikhil Raj Murugesh will lead the Karnataka side which also features India international Macarton Louis Nickson.

**The squad:** Nikhil Raj Murugesh (Capt.), S. Sujay, Kiran Saravanan, Arjun Gowda, D. Arun Kumar, Manglenthang Singsit, Godwin Johnson, Sahil, Rajil Saji, S. Aby, Karthik Govind Swamy, R. Dhanush, Chaphamayum Rohen Singh, Macarton Louis Nickson, Subrahmanian, Ajith Arasu, G. Aravind Babu, R. Vishal, Shreyas Ketkar, Crispin C. Cleetus.

### Neeraj stars for Max Muller HS

M. Neeraj scalped five wickets (5/26) as Max Muller High School beat Jain Heritage School by 153 runs in the BT Ramaiah Shield U-14 first division tournament.

**The scores:** Max Muller HS 293/8 in 50 overs (Athreya Bhat 78, C. Cheran Tej Raju 54) bt Jain Heritage School 140 in 35.5 overs (Arnav Kalyan 56 n.o., M. Neeraj 5/26).

DPS, North 313/6 in 50 overs (Sachith M. Yadav 48, Saachin Suresh Araganji 132) bt Vidyashilp Academy 134/9 in 50 overs (Nandan P. Kashyap 4/26).

Holy Saint ES 214/9 in 50 overs (Gagan P. Maiya 101) bt DPS, Electronic City 148 in 47.5 overs (Mohammad Uzer 4/26).

### Rising Star HC-B posts win

Rising Star HC-B beat BCYA-B 1-0 in the KSHA C-division Hockey League Championship in Bengaluru on Friday. On Thursday, Belgaum District Hockey Association drew with Bengaluru Blues HC-B by 0-0.

### Aakash, Sahana emerge champions

K.J. Aakash and Sahana Murthy emerged the men's and women's singles winners respectively at the CVL Shastry Memorial State table tennis championships.

**The results (finals): Men:** K.J. Aakash bt Abhinav Murthy 11-5, 11-9, 11-7, 11-6; Sahana Murthy bt Deshna Vanshika 5-11, 6-11, 11-9, 11-9, 11-5, 11-7; **Boys: U-17:** N. Aarnav bt Atharva Nawarange 2-11, 11-7, 11-9, 7-11, 11-9; **Girls: U-17:** Himanshi Chowdhary bt Tanishka Kapil Kalbhairav 11-6, 13-15, 11-1, 11-1; **U-15:** Irene Anna Subhash bt Mihika Udupa 11-13, 11-9, 11-7, 11-9; **NMS:** Siddharth Raja bt Ganesh Hiremath 9-11, 11-2, 11-6, 9-11, 11-7.

### Jeevith, Yahan come up trumps

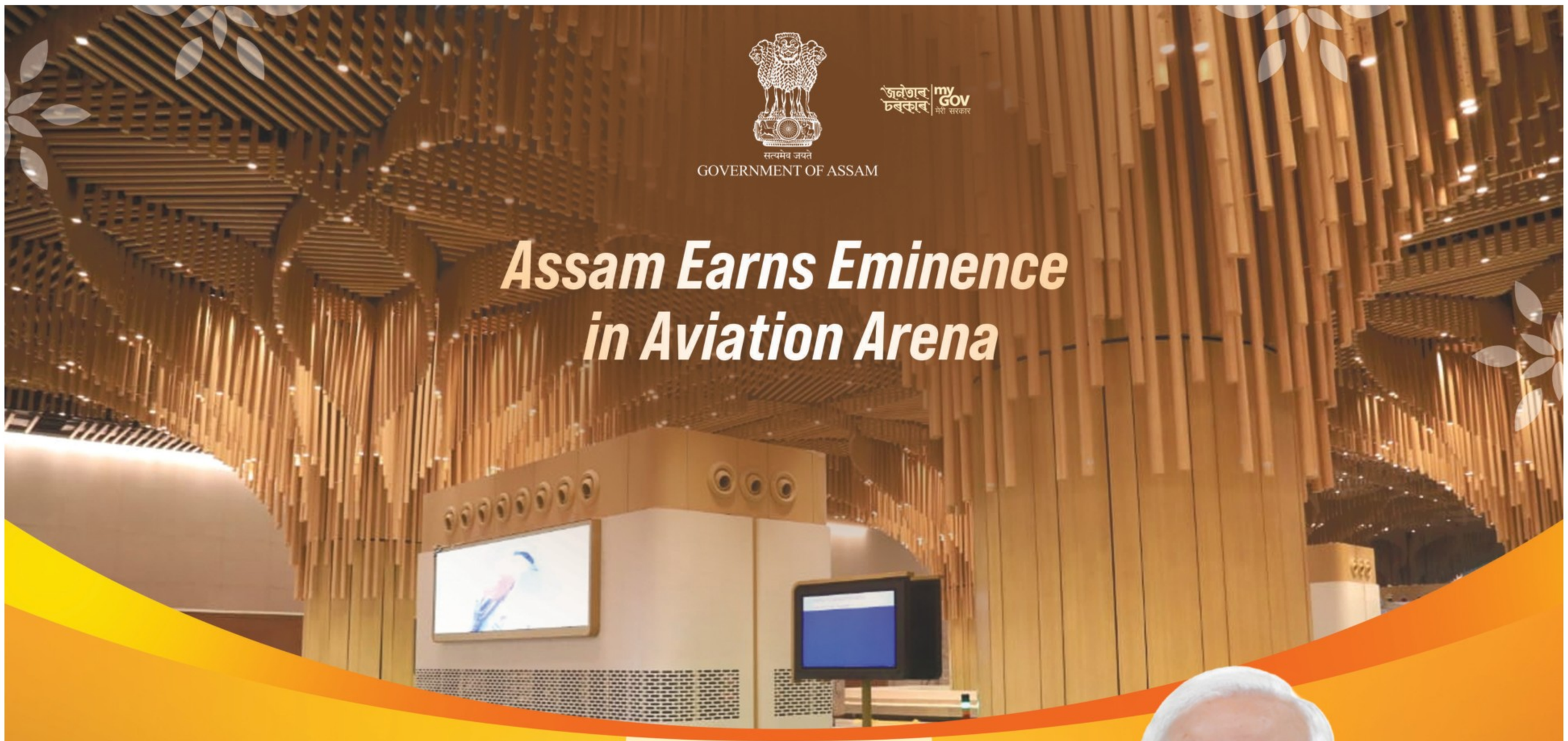
S. Jeevith and Yahan Arora emerged the boys' and girls' singles champions respectively in the CRS Trust AITA U-16 Championship Series tennis tournament in Bengaluru on Friday.

**The results (finals): Singles: Boys:** S. Jeevith bt Tanish Dasari 6-4, 6-0; **Girls:** Yahana Arora bt Kushi Budhya 4-6, 6-2, 6-2.

सत्यमेव जयते
GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

जनेताब चबकान | my GOV मेरी सरकार

# Assam Earns Eminence in Aviation Arena



Inauguration of

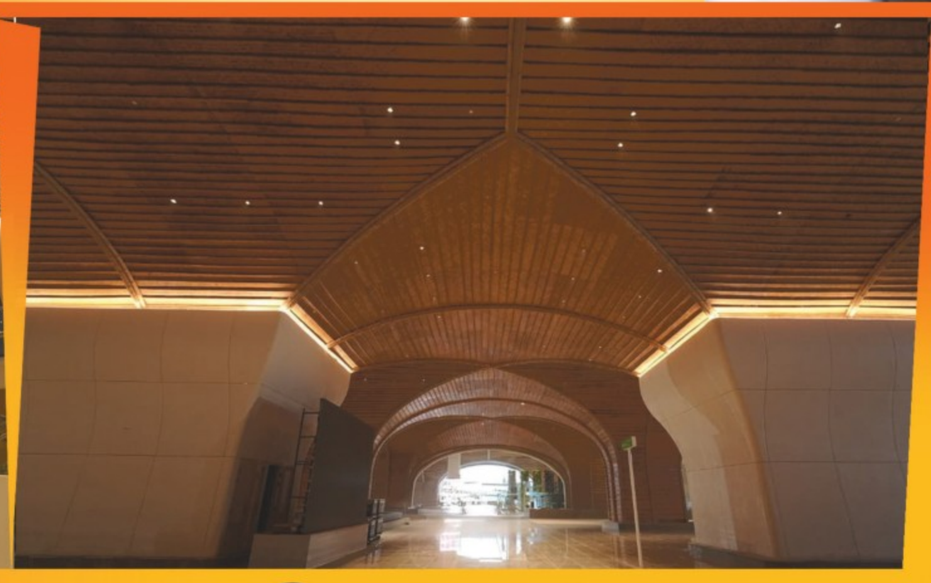
## NEW TERMINAL

**Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi International Airport**

by

**Shri Narendra Modi**

Prime Minister



**20 December 2025** | **2 PM** | **LGBI Airport, Guwahati**

## India's first
**nature-themed** airport built with **Bamboo Orchid** design

Terminal area **1.4 lakh sq m**

### Nature-inspired design

- Use of **140 MT bamboo** sourced from NE states
- 57 columns designed as **kopou phul**
- **1 lakh plants** to provide forest-like ambience
- **Skylight** relocated for optimal natural light

DIPR/D/HIND/685/20-Dec-25

Jump in passenger capacity **66 lakh** to **1.3 crore** annually

**Impact on Assam**

- Creation of **6,000 jobs** through airport development in next 5 years
- Boost to **tourism**, trade, logistics & industry
- Stronger regional **connectivity** & economic growth

### Ease of Passengers

- **First time in India** – Check-in facility at parking area & arrival forecourt
- **Full Body Scanners** - High-speed, non-intrusive security screening
- **DigiYatra** - Facial recognition for contactless travel at all gates

Published by **Directorate of Information and Public Relations, Assam** | Connect with us @diprassam | dipr.assam.gov.in